

JANUARY 1st 1987.

PK: I've been editing Edinburgh Review for over two years and I've come across several different scenes by beginning to cover developments in Scottish Art. This opened up connections with Transmission Gallery, and through openings there met Keith and Alastair from Here and Now magazine. I began to realize that there was some SIMILARITY OF CONCERNS to do with a complete distrust of - steer me right if I go wrong - political parties as organs of change in society: them being merely career vehicles etc. Through the magazine I have come across some people from the sixties' generation who haven't been bought off and who haven't died, did not overdose or commit suicide, or go off and devote the rest of their lives to Hare Krishna, and are not £20,000 a year doctors.

From this there is the feeling that it would be good idea for there to be some kind of public place which would be somewhere to go to prevent you going off their heads. The problem of so many isolated individuals doing whatever they work at and never coming together for a common project; a collective project that amounts to more than what one person can do. A centre... seizing a public building... or what?

How one reason why people are giving up all around the place is because of the sheer lack of interesting possibilities for action and getting together that exist. What brings people together?

- heating
- the ritual of eating/a cheap cafe
- somewhere to go a two in the morning that does not cost £3 to get into and loud music when you might want something else

Why should a large living room with two dozen old sofas be the preserve of a Pall Mall gentleman's club.

JT: What seems to me to be more important is that if you have the idea of a centre, it's not enough, you have to have a project. In a way, starting up centres gets like the double deckers or something. Everybody gets really excited and goes and does all the painting and nicks furniture from their parents' houses. But what do you do once you've got it. What you really need is to link it to an idea, a big idea, and it's very hard to see how you can. The idea of a centre is really good, it's the other one that is the difficult one. You may be trying to get a place to stop folk going off their heads, but even so, you are still dancing on the surface of this immutable thing, whereas what you want to go for is some sort of social change. I don't see how they connect really. The centre from its inception will have to have that bigger idea or else it would just run out.

GS: Given that the idea of a centre came before the idea of this bigger idea that we don't yet have, we might as well think about what it's going to be about.

JT: The thing is, the bigger idea of being a dissatisfied leftie came first. The reason folk don't talk about it is that it is really much easier to talk about setting up a centre. Social change and revolution are very embarrassing things to say - and that's the big idea. The centre is meaningless without it.

AD: Surely the thing to come out of all this is that activity within culture has the potential of having the relationship with the bigger idea. There is an implicit connection. What bothers me more is that if you believe that there is a form of cultural activity which would be pushing things along and have the opportunity of opening new avenues and new connections. What you end up with is the idea that some kind of artistic innovation might bring things along a little. This is Modernism. It is not a very fashionable thing at the moment. One of the first problems you come across in organising a centre is getting people to recognise that they are kindred spirits, albeit coming from different spheres.

JT: Although I think it's possible to become kindred spirits. If you are rewiring the whole building it is very easy to become kindred spirits. The whole New Left was diffused by intellectuals getting into the idea that anything cultural is OK because it all sort of links up eventually. The point is to be terribly explicit about it.

CT: We shouldn't play down the aspect of breaking down personal isolation. But with places like the Third Eye, you have the Arts Council and Glasgow District Council involved.

PK: Actually getting together now, in the late twentieth century, with the hold of TV, is actually so special in itself. This is a resource that other projects get born out of. To me, the whole thing is predicated on offering people a way out of leading selfish lives. It may lead to other things, it may not.

BC: How 'it' going to be funded?

(SC then explained the possible advantages of having a centre to organise people and resources in a flexible way, particularly to do with technology available in print/typesetting/magazine page make-up. PK gave a precis of the book WHAT A WAY TO RUN A RAILROAD: EXAMPLES OF RADICAL FAILURE.)

KM: If that book had been written prior to the situation in the late seventies, when people were organising in collectives, instead of heading for a Beyond The Fragments style which meant you ended up in the Labour Party. I think the shortcomings of all this is not the question of efficiency, but that of how you sense an oppositional way forward. It is important not just to be abstract but to look at a particular locality. In Glasgow, and Edinburgh to a lesser extent, there's just not a big alternative sphere. There never really has been. Various alternative projects have been set up. Across Europe, people seize empty buildings and this grows out of a wider alternative sphere. I was in Italy recently, and people would seize property, they didn't pay for it, and they somehow got away with it. I come back to Glasgow and... it just isn't really on. The idea of taking some empty factory or office -

CT: They would probably give you it, these places are an embarrassment. If it wasn't in a prime site. But I'm not saying that this is a good idea.

AD: You would become part of the 'cultural enrichment of GLASGOW' '

*

KS: I wouldn't say that Transmission has ever worked with-the-community as such. There hasn't been any great involvement. I don't know whether that's anything to do with its premises.

BC: You could definitely look at it that way. As far as the community's concerned it's just a wee room with things hanging up on the wall. On the other hand, there are people who come along who live locally. As far as whether members of the local community become members of the gallery, the problem there is that it's mostly artists that become members. I just mean that if anybody's got any ideas of working the locals up into a revolutionary frenzy, well it's not.

CT: I don't know about Transmission, but people who live near the Tron get awful pissed off about the noise and drunks.

PK: Maybe that wouldn't happen if it wasn't perceived as a club, which is what it is. If it was more like a public living room that people in that area could move in and out of...

KM: It would be the kiss-of-death for Transmission, the 'locals' trying to take over. It's a total joke the idea of the locality producing anything good in that sense. Transmission deals with a wider sphere of people - and that's how it should be - the only problem is that it hasn't got more space. If it did, we wouldn't be having this discussion about a social centre.

PK: But where colleges and universities go wrong is that they float above the community, wafer-like, drawing people from all over the country. Obviously you have to get rid of any mystic idea of the 'folk' or the 'people' as anything apart or of the local community as necessarily being blessed, but to sink foundations nevertheless.

KM: If we were talking about a college next to a mining community I could see the point because there you would have some sense of cohesion, but most other places are fabricated and reconstructed. I don't think there's anything to be gained from chasing after the mystical notion of 'community' as it stands. Most of the people I've met, like for instance in the anarchist sphere, are kids who want to get away from these estates. The appeal to radical ideas is usually for those who get interested in squatting.

AD: When a place with 15 rooms is mentioned I see Strathclyde university student union. Lots of different rooms and bars. If we are going to take things just on this institutionalised sphere of the building being the important thing, then the provision of the potential for cross-fertilisation by having these rooms where people can meet and things might not work: student unions tend not to produce anything. On the one hand there's the institutional aspect (which might help with cohesion) and then there's the conditions where people recognise one another as having a form of shared interest, which is very much

the sort of thing that can be pursued at an earlier date, for example by having more meetings in Transmission like the writer's day. The thing that's missing from a student union is the sense of ambition and cohesion to do with what activities they might get involved with. It's the classic British cynicism, distancing yourself with a knowing smile.

PK: ...but that has not always been the case.

AD: The crisis which you can perhaps see Britain through in the late sixties... People have tried various ways of explaining it by some kind of economic downturn that began in 1968 - fantasies of that ilk, which don't really seem to have existed. Things that were happening in culture perhaps produced a more generalised crisis. You have people like Lucien Goldmann saying that from Robbe-Grillet's books in the fifties, you can predict the crisis that erupted in the sixties, which I find fairly strange.

JT: ...It's quite funny to sit and talk about a 'centre', because it's an incredibly naff word. With a student's union, what is manifestly obvious is that it is un-centred. You have a facility, a service. If you are talking about community centres, then you are talking about servicing the community and THAT'S IT. Something that attaches to the caring professions side of British society, that general sphere of social work, state education, community education. It's the thing that comes in between.

GS: But in this case, the centre is the reason for coming together, whereas with a university, the union is simply peripheral to the university it is attached to. You don't want something that just 'serves' the community. The best illustration I can think of is the difference between traffic-lights and roundabouts. Traffic-lights you put energy into and they do things like machines. Roundabouts don't do anything - they just sit there, with no moving parts, and yet they change the flow of traffic. They allow the traffic to self-regulate. They are machines with no moving parts, and that's what you want.

JT: But isn't that saying that our role is going to be peripheral.

SC: The centre could be a place that has typesetting facilities for producing things like magazines, pamphlets and other publications: a service that adds another dimension.

JT: Centres are not actually a good thing in themselves. When I was at the unemployed centre in Aberdeen I had a miserable time. It's really good while you have a sense of collective purpose. First it might be something quite small - like a bit of re-wiring for instance - then you do that and try to find something else to do. The Double-Deckers syndrome, and that's genuinely very satisfying. It's great there are no adults to reproduce the family structure, but that's basically what we're doing. Then it runs out and all you're left with is ennui. In Aberdeen you've got this mentality of going from one place to another - there are 3 unemployed centres - in Edinburgh it's exactly the same. You wander about and do fuck all it's a diversion really. What's needed is a purpose. I don't want to just 'service' the society we are in and be another Theatre

Workshop. I don't want to participate in a centre that might add to a culture I detest, which is the alternativist culture.

FK: I don't see how you can not be part of society. All I think you can do is repair the light-bulbs.

PK: But surely you've got to find ways of cooperating with others.

AD: But the feeling that most of us have. You walk down the street at 7 o'clock at night and you see this blue flickering light that is EastEnders and it's not something you feel happy with, but it is the society within which you are living.

JT: The problem is trying to be outwith something when you are within it or inside something when you're outwith it. The only way to get round that one is to get on with it and try and change the situation. It's that kind of dynamic that we've got to talk about now.

PK: It's BEHAVE AS IF YOU HAVE AND ARE IN POWER.

JT: But at the same time try and get some.

PK: Yes, but the process of assuming that you have power is doing just that. Walk down the middle of the road. The way out of an either/or is not to say either/or.

BC: In a way you two are agreeing, that you must not think in terms of us and them.

AD: Surely it's the formation of a better 'us' that is needed. It's not the evangelical thing of maybe hanging round the corner of this centre like the church of scientology offering personality tests or something like that. It is the self-recognition of people who want to do something.

JT: You can waste a lot of time with trivial projects. Just because doing things cultural may join up eventually, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is the best way of working.

PK: Then there's the problem of how people who want to get something organised relate to other people, who are not already within that dynamic. To get away from the model of teaching or politics that says 'hello, come to us, we have the knowledge and we shall give it to you because it is good for you'. There are good and bad things behind selling Shakespeare for sixpence before the expansion of libraries. All this lies behind the problems of teacher/pupil, doctor/patient, administrator/administrated, governor/governed. In discussing the college, you are looking at the particular operation of power. What is behind the whole bad feeling of doing an essay and bringing it for judgement to a teacher.

AD: If you look at left publications of the thirties and forties, you see this H.G. Wells thing of ads for people doing lectures at Burgh Halls and things which has evaporated since then. I would be worried if the free university aspect just meant the straight pedagogic thing of giving lectures to the public. The Socialist Party of Great Britain have been doing this for 75 years. The real question of the free university side of this is the production of theory and the putting of this into practice, and where this takes place.

JT: The whole idea that reading Dostoevsky makes you A BETTER PERSON and leaving it at that is the quantitative model of cutting off the top of people's heads and bungin the stuff in a shutting it again. Like the idea of 'the people' as something apart from everything else, it's out of date.

PK: What you want is to behave as you mean to go on function whereby working in a centre may mean doing one day of washing up, one day organising a meeting/discussion, another day something else, and your existence is all these things in combination. A flexible, organic approach away from rigid specialism. In this way to provide a precedent, to act as a catalyst, that others may borrow and improve upon. To look at change in terms of a group of smaller problems instead of the one BIG problem.

AD: One interesting thing is that during the past 10 years the production of theory has moved outside the universities. A lot of Art magazines have started appropriating aesthetic theory. What is important is no longer bringing the professional educators into this project, the knowledge can come from people already involved in other spheres.

PK: We have enough information about what is wrong with society. Analysis has been financed and done. The problem is: shaking people out of the impossibility of action, out of the complete frustration which leads to self-mutilation and needles in the arm.

*

CT: If you take the heyday of the Women's Movement in Britain in the 1970s, you had centres where people could go. Where the hell can you go as a woman, it's so bloody hard in Glasgow if you don't want to go to a pub or if you don't want to have to be with someone else to take the strange looks away. There are about 2 places in Glasgow apart from my house that I can feel comfortable to go to by myself and go and read a book or paper. If I don't want a pre-arranged date. How do you cope with loneliness, because I think the forces of capitalism are getting even more vicious and you need more energy to keep resisting it and you can only get energy from other people. That is social change.

JT: There was an article in New Socialist where a woman said that the optimum age for political activity was up to 28, because after that people start having children and getting solid jobs in universities and things. This thing of going through a political phase and then stopping. What's important is to transcend the situation whereby energy always fizzles out.

1st meeting JAN 87?

PK: What we have now are governments that are making the personal private as opposed to allowing it to become social. Bringing people out of loneliness, out of the impossibility of connecting with other people, this as a preventive thing is subversive. Like having a good, cheap photocopier available. The basic essentials: providing cheap food, shelter. Not in the sense of 'Forget about the rest of society, let's all go to Findhorn'.

AD: Food is actually a terrible way of going under state control. As soon as you have food on the premises, you are going to have inspectors sitting on your neck.

JT: Just coffee then? You have an urn, a database, a photocopier.

AD: The main power that we face is the nihilating power. The way that society can render any activity into total indifference.

PK: If you look at social change in terms of a jigsaw. I am wary of having a total project that I am aiming at because I don't believe that I have the wisdom to point the gun at a target and say THAT'S where we are going. But I am confident of the possibility of loosening up the texture of things so that you can get people to put the pieces of a jigsaw together, an ever-expanding jigsaw that shows that some social change is possible, if one person puts a piece down, then another adds to it, you find yourself growing organically from a personal/local/minor level, you have a catalyst situation with knock-on effects. If you have enough people walking in one direction - flexibly - and without selling part newspapers or getting involved with party career politics, taking on board new ideas as they arise, reappropriating areas of action. Behaving in an efficient way with your time - i.e. not working yourself into the ground for 18 hours a day and then getting pissed off. Opening up possibilities in a non-linear way. Expanding sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, depending on the context. Revolutionary ideas tend to be bought off when they are over-centralised. It is easy to find and eliminate things that are over-centralised. Then the bully boys get in and grab your support, your iconography and all your good ideas.

GS: Wittgenstein had a point about how philosophy used to be about longitudinal strips that stretched from here to infinity and covered everything, that deal with every possible case, even those which you hadn't imagined yet. Whereas what he was trying to say was you should do it with latitudinal strips, doing it a bit at the time. Say you're trying to organise a library and all the books are messed up. You don't have to do everything at once. You take two books and put them in alphabetical order. Now, you're going to have to move them again, but you start somewhere. You don't meet an end. If our means are sound, then you progress.

CT: There are some unemployed centres that if I was unemployed, I wouldn't go near. They are really depressing places. You go in and it's no wonder that people are looking for ways of escaping. There would be nothing wrong with having a place where you could get something half-decently cooked that didn't cost £20.

KM: What are the preconditions for bringing people together. We have to draw up a list, what are the obstacles. I wouldn't see this centre as being the end of it, but as one step forward.

PK: You've got to get money that isn't state money and that cannot be clawed back like two or three big plugs going into a system which can be pulled quite quickly and can influence things. What I mean is this - governments work and citizens fail because they are loads of tiny plugs putting money into the state whether it's through VAT or through forced tithing or whatever. Quite obviously, the state gives no power back, because if they did, they would be in trouble. Now, we have the retreat of taxation (with increases in other things), the rise of VAT hitting different classes equally. It wouldn't be a bad idea to think about starting up a taxation system. Instead of robbing a bank, you get into contact with a large mass of individual people from the 1968 generation who have now gone into professions and eat in restaurants and have 3 holidays a year. Therefore, you get more than 50 small plugs as inputs and not saying to the people 'you are patrons' and not giving them any places on a committee, not publishing names, not allowing them to know who the others are. Radical psychiatrists and university lecturers give a lot of money in Italy. Lots of little plugs will have less influence than three big ones. A non-state based taxation system.

AD: Can we not get onto what kind of activities we might see in this geographical space. What use can be made of Transmission in all this.

PK: ...beginning in one room and moving to two.

C.R. I would like to say that personally I would prefer if this meeting went more towards the direction of money and how to get it, and the structure of the thing. Because the kind of talk we had at the last meeting will always be there.

K.G. There was something in the last minutes where somebody said that they didn't mind if it didn't actually come to a centre. The ultimate aim of the collective could maybe be defined a bit more clearly. Is it just wishful thinking that we're getting together and getting the energy and the enthusiasm together, or are we actually aiming for an end product? Therefore we have to define that - so maybe we can start talking about the extent to which we will need finance.

— Personally I would be interested in aiming for an end product because if we are not heading for an end product we're just a bunch of... a group of people meeting together bloody benefiting each other by some sort of interchange etcetera, we're not actually benefiting anyone else.

M.D. A common interest has'n't been stated yet about why people are getting together, let alone the destination. Before you can start talking about how an institution might function as a "Free University" whatever that might be - What is the common ground here between everybody?

S.B. Do you think we should'n't define too much in advance what it is to be and what way it will grow in a natural way.

C.T. Just by the nature of the thing it will probably become different over a period of time.

A.G. From the point of view of raising money - You raise money from people by telling them what you are raising it for. Now, what we tell them may be a lie or a partial truth, but one has to have some connection with something we are prepared to present and are agreed to present. So if you've got a fund raiser saying we want it for A, and everyone else is committed and running around and saying it's actually for B, C and D, this will actually militate getting the money at all. Therefore there has to be a limited base of agreement just from the practical point of view of getting any funds whatsoever.

A.D. One of the things that came out of the last meeting which I think is reflected in the minutes was very much the idea around the precedents. There was talk of attempts at Free Universities in America in the 50's onwards, various attempts made in the 60's to organize Free Universities, Cultural Centres in the alternativist sense in the 70's and I think I raised the question - How does what's projected here differ from the 3rd Eye when it started.

A.G. The 3rd Eye started in a small gallery in Blythwood Square belonging to the Lady Artists Club designed by Rennie MacIntosh. The Lady Artists Club was dissolving. The Arts Council acquired this place as a gallery and an Arts Centre. The director they got to expand the place - Tom McGrath - his immediate feeling was that there was a discreet little place for putting on discreet exhibitions of "very good quality". He wanted to make it more popular. He initiated a complex property deal that made it possible to sell that site to a fairly rich business and get the site on Sauchiehall street. He wanted a place that a lot of people could pass by and come into. Thereafter he started expanding it. He was very keen on the pop music jazz and base and while he was there he organized pop style festivals and getting Indian mystical speakers and Buddhists. He was also keen on the Art gallery and he got the bureaucracy, a large number of people to help him handle what was increasingly and very busy. He had a news magazine. After doing this for 6 or 7 years Chris Carrell came in. I was just referring to the 3rd

Eye Centre as it was before it became what we now know it.

J.K. Was it always a place where the Council and the Arts Council...

A.G. It was an Arts Council foundation.

J.K. The important point for me would be that already even at that stage it began as institutionalised and in that sense it didn't have total control.

C.T. If you know the ins and outs, was Tom McGrath not one man who was trying to keep some sort of flexibility in spite of the Arts Council and the District Council.

I.M. There wasn't so much emphasis on education either and this is what Tom is getting involved in this Arts Centre down the road. He is quite involved with the Immediate Theatre Co. now. He is trying to do down there what he couldn't do up here.

A.G. Ian Milliken is the architect who is designing the Arts Centre for the Immediate Theatre Co.

S.B. Could you say a bit about this?

I.M. The Immediate Theatre put on productions all over Scotland, they've helped local writers get established and felt it was time they had a base in Glasgow. Jim Morrison, Jess Corrigan are the main energy behind it and Tom McGrath came in about 6 months ago. Their idea is to create a contemporary Arts Centre down at Charing X encompassing all the arts with the emphasis on education. They're planning two theatres, recording studio, cable television studio, local radio, bar, cafe, live music. They're going through all the problems of trying to raise the finance without getting politically tied. They want to continue it without subsidy because that's where the influence and ties come in. So that's the approach they made to these financial bodies, that they give an initial sum and then they are no longer involved. They researched it very thoroughly, they had to produce figures to show that they can stand on their own feet thereafter. I've been very impressed with the methodology they've used to calculate everything and to bring their ideas to fruition. I don't know what you're at here at the moment, I was invited because people said I might be interested and came to observe, not really to contribute. I think what they're planning down there is going to be very exciting.

A.D. One of the things said about the 3rd Eye there was that it was very much Tom McGrath and now everything's changed etcetera, that the whole thing becomes very dependant on the energies of one or two people. The only respect in which everything envisaged here could possibly differ from what you are describing down at Charing X is possibly that same thing of where that's going to be the energies of two or three people who are committed to that project.

I.M. In fact I am just mentioning two or three but there's maybe a nucleus of about twelve.

— Just a general point about how institutions change because obviously in some sense as soon as something is institutioned it is an institution. If you have flexible ideas, those ideas survive for a certain amount of time. I'm just put in mind of a comment made by Alan Rogers who is an American sub-culturist etcetera who has certain credible aspects, but anyway, he wrote one very interesting comment which was that a lot of the ideas for flexible education that he put forward. Institutions that have them seriously survive that way for maybe ten years or so, and then as people left them, get tired or whatever, the ideas are dropped out again, they just get normalised if you like. That's a problem that anything, whether it's this, whatever, is something that anyone is going to face. The question is, is it a reason for not doing it. It seems to me a reason for doing something continuously.

3
P.K. There are two buildings in Buccleuch st. One is an old small warehouse a ground floor and three floors, called the Box factory. The other is the old Garnethill Girls School. They've both been empty for some years. One possibility is just to begin squatting and go from there. The Scottish International Educational Trust which was started by Sean Connery is trying to put money into working projects in Scotland. I made an approach and he said he was very interested in putting money into this. He would buy a building.

C.R. If we're going to be getting a lot of money to buy a building I don't see why we should choose one which would need a lot of repair, is hard to heat. Why choose old warehouses, it seems a waste. I suppose because the idea started out from seizing a building, just taking it, we still automatically think of a building which has been empty for several years and which nobody else would want anyway. But now our options have changed.

I.M. With the Box factory you're dealing with a private company and would be quite expensive for what it is. It probably wouldn't attract grants, it's not a listed building. The school is, and would attract grants. There is a surplus of listed buildings. It's incredible the amount of beautiful buildings which are lying ready.

M.D. Why didn't the immediate Theatre Co. want funding from the local state but you got funding from private individuals - Is that a political reason?

I.M. We're getting funding from the District and Arts Council, it's a one off. We're not continually going back cap in hand every year. We didn't want a councillor on the committee. If you do that you've got to have some sort of political representation. They tried to force their way in but we just stood firm.

T.L. Get hold of a press, get hold of a photocopier and an actual "debating chamber", that would be a more abstract thing.

M.D. There must be better places outside the centre of the city, it seems more logical to move out. How many people have access to the centre. I mean it would be quite nice for us.

K.M. If you get trapped in the local neighbourhood you're going to get local community figures interfering and they wouldn't be interfering for the purpose of creating a dynamic institution. They'd be interfering because it's their patch. So where's this mystical community going to be. That's the attraction of the city centre, you've actually got some air that hasn't been coloured by these people.

- One of the things about the centre is that it is in fact the place that the maximum number of people have access to, even if there will be some access difficulties.

C.T. There are no buildings in - you're talking about housing schemes - there are no buildings except houses. The minute you try to get one of these you come up against the Housing Department or the Labour Party. You would probably spend about at least two years trying to make some connection with the local community. You would be a community centre then, if you weren't going to be resented.

T.L. The centre at least is equidistant.

A.G. Surely one of the things that would be required is a register of members that was accessible to all members - taking the line that people weren't going to be excluded. It would be a matter of names, addresses, particular skill, telephone number if they had one. Housepainter if that was the thing they were skilled in doing, and people with certain kinds of equipment, and somebody with a car. What I mean is, if we have a situation where if we have folk wanting to do a job which might involve renovating a small section of a building or making a film and didn't have the skills to do it they could contact other people through the register and see if they were interested in doing it.

P.M. You've got to go out and say to folk, we're here and this is what we're doing. The skills exchange and the forum idea are two important things in relation to that. In what sense is this going to be a learning and a teaching institution.

P.K. The notice board is a good way to begin. You could get quite informally a whole cluster of reading groups for example, happening. So the idea of a forum independent of official education can just get going.

J.K. I'm wary of the notion "teacher", perhaps the most crucial thing is the chance for people in this room, two or three rooms, to sit and talk.

A.D. Is it the desire of all of us as complete individuals to go out and convert other people to something or is the primary desire that brings us together the recognition of a certain insufficiency in ourselves, in our linkages.

I.M. Insufficiencies in ourselves are in fact insufficiencies in culture as a whole. The idea of going out and being evangelical is impossible for a lot of people. We might be able to get over both problems, syllabus and also the teacher student relationship - which is obviously something we want to get rid of. Remembering that we want some sort of organization as instrumental to getting money, if we just think of things in some form roughly like reading groups or whatever we call it - projects?

T.L. It's all to do with experience. If it's an individual experience or whether through talking or through doing something, or being in the presence of people that you can have a right good fucking argument with. If something could be structured into something useful but absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with syllabuses and projects - even the word 'subjects' - that just sounds awful. I thought the idea of an alternative University was beginning by assuming it's a kind of open-ended University. Like there's no patriarchs and no tutors but none the less what we have here is "wee bodies" who are centring round this and there will be somebody who'll be leading subtly: through teaching methods. Ha! The whole idea insofar as it is understood is a kind of consensus, that has got nothing to do with anyone going there to maybe learn something.

J.K. Someone would have to lead initially - say we've got a place next week, somebody would have to lead a discussion; but maybe that would just happen at that stage, maybe after three months it would change.

AG: If you take the line that the 'student' may be any age,wants to learn something from university (this ought to be possible in any university,but of course it isn't)...inter-departmental regulations.Since this is a free university,there may be in it a number of people who want to teach and rather enjoy doing it,and there will be people who get involved because they want to learn,then I cant see any danger.

CG: If there were 6 people who wanted to learn to grow cabbages,why couldn't they all get together and if one of them happened to know a lot about it,then it would be between the 6 people to decide where to get the information. More like a self-help group.

MMC: Isn't what we're talking about an exchange of experience - anybody's experience - we all want to learn as much as any of the anonymous people who want to use this building. It's just a case of swapping any bright ideas you may have with others. You want to put everybody into a pot and say 'take out what you want',and to have a place that encourages that sort of inter-action.

AD: There's a sense in which the forum idea is the most interesting...

AG: You could get a spokesman - an intelligent one - from Glasgow District Council, to explain what the current architectural policy is and how it's working.You could have an interesting public debate.

MMC: The problem of the word 'teaching' emerged at the same time as we were thinking of ways to get money out of institutions. I think that those 2 points: ie.hierarchical teaching plus money - are by no means non-associated.

CR: Could we get back to how many jannies we need ?

AD: The organising of a forum is not necessarily predicated on whether you have a building or not. It could be done in Transmission - with proper seating and comfort. What kind of subjects for discussion would attract enough people from outside. Something controversial,to wind people up.

KM: It would be an idea to prefigure some of the kinds of activities which would be expected to go on in the building...to start them now.

PW: There are an awful lot of bodied that could be more linked up. Architects have a planning exchange...there's also the Maryhill Resource Centre and the City Farms.

JK: But it would be good to have a place that is accessible to people from all parts of Glasgow. I know that in Drumchapel there are houses that have been converted firstly into schools and then into a community centre,but if you were to lodge yourself there permanently,you would have to be involved with different types of organisations. I cant see why you couldnt use premises like that for perhaps a week.

PM: Maryhill Resource Centre is an example of a place where people have gone out into the community,not with any missionary zeal or evangelical purpose,but simply to sat 'This is what we have here,there are people here who can show you how to use these machines,you can produce your poster or leaflet or whatever.

KM: You cant get away from the fact that these centres exist,these jobs exist,the whole structure exists in relation to the community there in. You have to see them in some sort of historical context where people are deliberately led away by the local state into certain compromises. I cant really see these places as being of any great use at this moment in time. We need some kind of central place to give a real shot-in-the-arm to what's happening in Glasgow.

MD: The whole idea of a free university is based on the idea of political opposition I take it. People who have been involved in other projects and are not satisfied with the way things have worked.We cant talk about making inroads to the existing institutions any more.It's based upon political opposition to the way things are,and that's based on a confidence.

AD: There's the fragmentation into what is passed off as 'community',there's the agencies which are brought in from outside which contain many admirable people who are very sincere in themselves,but their whole is to solicit people to be involved. You get on a glasgow bus and it says ITS YOUR BUS. It's the friendly avuncular arm round the shoulder thing,and that's a function of the way things are,it is not necessarily what we want them to be.

PK: I like the idea of a forum in that you are actually getting away from the idea that political parties are in any way vehicles for changing anything.By the year 2010,it would be nice to be able to say you have got involved in something that is not 'conventional politics',and neither is it sitting alone in a room or just getting involved in a local arts centre,but instead meeting people completely different from yourselves,who are involved in completely different things,who represent themselves,their experience or other people. You might get 12 people from the City Farm who want to send along a delegate every month. It need not be the same person each month: the beginnings of a forum outwith the state.

MMac: I am very interested in ideas about libraries. It would be very nice to have some sort of organised dumping ground where people could put things that were interesting.A generalised Reading Room.[A depot].You wouldnt want it to be over-structured. Printed information is something we are going to need. Old series like Thinkers Library can be got reasonably cheaply.10 or 20p each.

PK: Or even information about claimant's unions around the country.Examples of things going on right now. A lot of the problem is that people may be doing things which are very interesting but dont get reported by the media through London. There are initiatives in Sheffield.

JK: How many people in Drumchapel know what kind of things are going on in Gorbals. How important it would be for people in Summerston to know what was being done in Gorbals,Easterhouse and Castlemilk. Claimant's unions,damp - crucial information - and here is philosophy,here is growing cabbages.

TL: ...Just talking in terms of CB radio...apparently in it some local groups can use VHF. It would be great if we could actually start a radio station:that would solve a lot of problems.There's a lot of people who have work,including myself,that could never be broadcast anywhere else.That is a simple political point obviously. Just that this might be the kind of thing that could be possible.

AD: One difficulty with a pirate station is the lack of response. You put your voice out into the ether and the response is worse than when you're printing something.

KM: ...and they often end up by playing just music all the time. A kind of 10th pop station.

*

AT THE END OF THIS MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT FOR THE NEXT MEETING,THE FOLLOWING WOULD FORM THE AGENDA:

1. Report back from FUNDING , BUILDING , FORUM groups
2. If as many people as possible could write down a list of possible activities that they would see as going on in the place.

Extracts from peoples' different written visions of the place

A building -with-no-walls:that is, a radion station.

An archive.

Oral history facilities.

The technological facilities for printing and publishing.

An arts production collective working out of a warehouse/yard,running a recycling plant to gather its materials,provide means of employment.

Different types of social bases: cafes,bookspace,donation-library.

The constituency imagined was similar to the one for alternativism - predominantly young, leftish,and having tertiary education. Even where individuals expressed some dissatisfaction with alternativism,the centre seemed to be conceived as appealing to the same constituency, if only as a means of saving them from the apoliticism supposedly brought about by parenthood and an apparently inevitable yuppieedom. I think we should break from any conception of political activity which has as its paradigm the X&activity of the young/educated Left,or which fails to recognise thast having children,being middle-aged etc,breed their own radical concerns (and in addition,leave one without the possibility of opting for 'solid jobs in universities and things').Beware of reproducing the post-28 syndrome by conceiving of the place narrowly in terms which are more suited to the needs of the pre-28s.I'd like the place to be a place forstrangers to meet,not to establish a crippling intimacy,but to engage in activity which is essentially public.The metaphors I prefer to that of a living-room are a parliament,an arena,a stage.The Free Uni could serve as aresource and meeting-place,and if scially -engaged,could be a genuinely democratic interchange without preconceptions such as 'bringing culture to the masses etc.. A precondition of it functioning would be the overthrow of the missionary manner and social-worky legacy of the 1960s/70s.

A day and night identitly with cheap but decent tea and coffee.V.important this. Writing spaces for people who live in overcrowded flats where intimacy/quiet/solitary work is impossible.Drop Free Uni/Centre & call it sthing neutral like Cehltre 42 orGatewayXchang Creche,and if possible always women working there. Offer space to other groups in order to maintain new blood/forgo links/keep alive. Study-groups,and spaces for them to have workshops in. Libraries are repressive in that they have too many books.Therefore,a library of books for purposes;a programme of writing comment s on books in big ledgers so borrowers can browse through comments as well(like the old WEA libraries). Public information-gathering banks on persons,instituitions and events.

MOTIVE:recognition of alienation /lack of communicayion as common predicament of disparate individuals. Need to provide crossroads/transition space.

REVENUE-GENERATING ACTIVITIES: Accomedation,studio space,workshops,food and drink,co-op.

UNFASHIONABLE ENTHUSIASMS: exercise/gym,video equipment,woodwork,hobbies made public-see what the chat before/in-between/after amounts to(brings unlikely new blood).

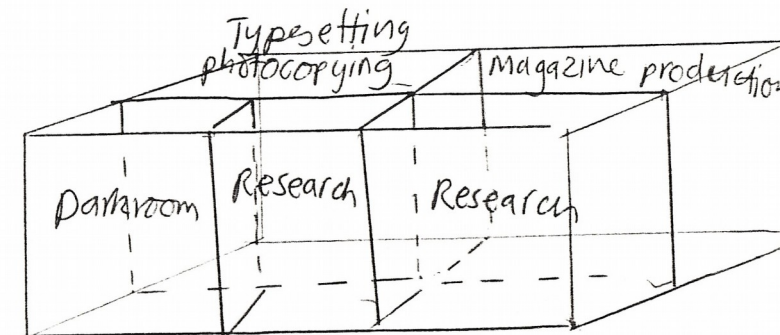
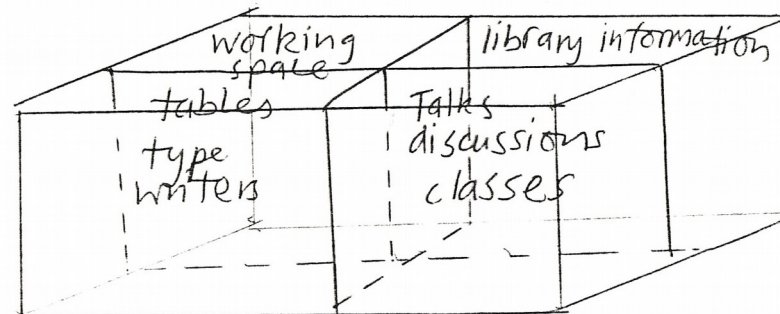
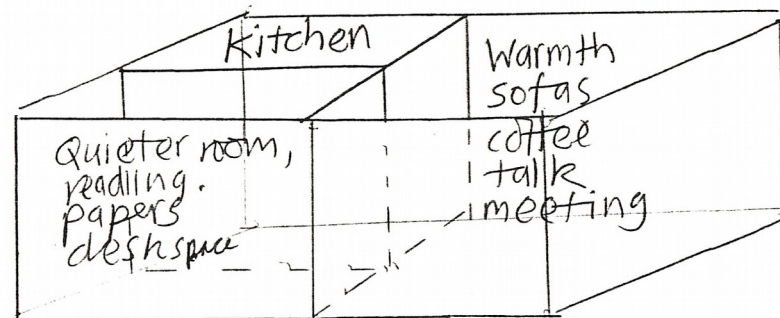
Provide warmth,comfort,company,literature.

Typewriters,printing facilities may lead on to weekly newspaper - apprenticeships. A way of thinking so that things could be put out,so the building does not just 'sit'there, but has things going on inside that then go out. Machinery could be used to do 'outside' jobs,which not only widens the doings of the building but could help with money. Having people working and getting paid is important - voluntary often means temporary, ie. middle class/those who can afford to give their time away for nothing.Offering alternatives to poverty as well as spiritual satisfaction would get additional interesting people in.

NOTES FROM MEETING 14/2/87

- access to building from peripheral positiond of city
- need for convenient lie to get ffffff
- draw people in through notices in libraries,unemp.centres
- skills exchange,register of intentions
- while not wanting the thing to become a bureaucracy, beware of spending all the time keeping it flexibel
- think about giving spaces over to existing concerns
- besides the ffffff\$\$\$\$\$ thing there is a need to set out an IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM about what the thing's about

- reading groups
- syllabus or not to syllabus
- 24hours 7 days a week
- rotating bosses/bullies
- rhetoric,public speaking
- where experience meets argument
- joinup the parallel lines
- discuss newtowns,damp,allotments
- get book to put down groupthought



2nd meeting ? JAN 87

(There must be safeguards to prevent the goodwill of the organisers being abused by people coming in from the outside looking to make a quick buck.)

(Find out more about the shelved People's College in Easterhouse)

(Photocopy stuff in Hewison on Centre 42 and Anti-University)

TL: What fucking social change are we talking about ? Is it like the Open University when you get a bunch of kids into a room and turn on a video and saying 'isn't it wonderful art ducky ?' Or is it real social change which would mean taking over the means of production or something?

PK: The very idea of having somewhere where people can go at two in the morning. A big public room with three dozen second-hand sofas grouped together, where you can go with someone else or alone, and with little or no money and sit, relax, maybe meet someone else who you may or may not know, read a newspaper, sit elsewhere than a living room alone or a flat with the rest of the family asleep. To attempt to move from this to social change.

TL: There seem to be two or three things juggling together. The nineteenth century tearoom. I mean by that a lot of the radical movements in the nineteenth century would actually meet and exchange ideas without having to get pished in the process. That to me assumes some kind of common ground, not in the negative sense but in the oppositional sense of being united in some form of opposition to the institution outside it. Another two things. One seems to be there has to be some basic respect within the community for one another's ideas without it becoming some kind of exclusive elec, yet at the same time, there is a tremendous conflict of ideas about what art actually. Would this place not have students ? Would it be folk coming off the street ? Would it not have a series of lectures, people paying, giving bits of paper at the end ? Who would be taking the decision as to what went on ? Where are the parameters/perimeters established as to who is part of this group ?

KM: I don't care if at the end of the day the centre doesn't come about, as long as it brings people together and other things may come out of it, then that is a step forward.

AD: In some ways it is difficult to differentiate what we are talking about here from the original aims of the Third Eye Centre in the early 1970s.

CT: It had a better atmosphere before it moved to the place where it is now... I don't know about what people were saying earlier about failures. I don't think of things as 'failures'. I think things stop... If there is a need now and there is an energy about, then it is a eighties thing. But I can imagine once we get inside this place, having to have a meeting to decide who puts the kettle on. It's like in relationships, when people start questioning roles - which is a good thing - no one ends up buying the milk. Like arguing about who's going

to change the baby's nappy, while the wee thing's covered in shit. You've got to DO SOMETHING sometime instead of always talking about it.

CR: Equally important is how the structure works.

CT: There's a need for somewhere you can get recharged. I don't find anything wrong with that. The eighties are a very hard time to be trying not to be bowled over by this crazy system, and anything you can give people to help is good. Part of that is comfort, also education. There are some places you are going to be scared going to alone at one in the morning... Heating is a very important asset in a place, it should not be underestimated.

*

CRECHE

CAFE/KITCHENS

SHOWERS

COMPUTER CENTRE/TERMINALS/TYPEWRITERS

TYPESETTING/BASIC PRINTING & PHOTOCOPYING

BOOKSPACE/DONATIONS LIBRARY

PUBLIC LIVING ROOM

CINEMA CLUB

ACCOMADATION

EXHIBITION SPACE

DARKROOM

RADIO TRANSMITTER

DISCUSSION SPACES

RECORD of third FUG meeting, March 21, 1987

The meeting opened at about 6.30pm and closed at about 9.30pm. It fell into roughly three areas:

1. report back from building group
2. report back from funding group
3. general/list matters and report from forum group.

MM made the important point that people should, as far as possible, see that membership of these groups overlaps. The very concept of a forum necessitates building and financial organisation, and it is in the spirit of FUG that buildings and finance involve ideas.

1. REPORT BACK FROM BUILDING GROUP

- (a) longterm possibilities: (i) Garnethill School in Buccleugh St
(ii) Royal Academy Building in Nelson Mandela Place
- (i) school surplus to Region's requirements, therefore Council likely to be sympathetic to seeing it used for an educational project. Support from certain councillors likely. Big: but classroom accommodation felt to be a bit rigid and uninspiring.
- (ii) being sold in three lots; we're interested in lot A. Very expensive; offers in in a week. Money? But the space is amazing, flexible, inspiring, central and, unlike most old buildings, would not cost so much to run, as space could be leased to other ventures.
- (b) short term possibilities: (i) Maryhill Rooms and (ii) Quaker Basement in Sauchiehall St seem most promising; (iii) other ideas not really discussed include Transmission,
- (i) various rooms for a fee I missed
- (ii) free, large, several rooms, FOE just moving out. Dark, a bit damp, but for a year or so, and for our meetings and some public ones, a good offer.

2. REPORT BACK FROM FUNDING GROUP

- (a) NW reported, that the FG felt it was necessary to adopt a model constitution (which need be implemented, if at all, only when the Inland Revenue give charitable status) because most trusts only give to recognised charities. Basically this means
- (i) a Management Committee with Treasurer, Secretary, Chair and members with voting rights
- (ii) no overtly (ie party-) political aims
- (iii) abroad set of aims and objectives ("to serve the people of Glasgow and environs")
- (iv) AGMs, and a quorum of membership needed for constitution and dissolution.

Beyond this, charitable status is basically a rubberstamp from the Inland Revenue, and means kudos and release from paying tax. Some also felt the constitution would work as a useful safety mechanism --- guarding against entrists taking things over, etc. There was much discussion as to how to ensure the Management Committee did not take things over or get landed with all the work: enlarging the quorum, letting ordinary members vote in MC meetings, etc. A minority felt the constitution to be per se undesirable; but, as NW stressed, there is no need to implement it.

- (b) PK reported on a visit to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, who advised charitable status, gave a directory of grant-making organisations and were supportive. 'She had imagination'.

Copies of charitable constitutions, this directory, Inland Revenue Guide lines, the RSAMD Plans, distributed and discussed.

- (c) We are to compile a list of people who can be tapped for sums of money from £5 up for short term finance. We are passing round a hat amongst ourselves for postage money, etc.

3. Forum Matters

1. THE MOST PRESSING MATTER IS TO DEVELOP A PROPAGANDA SHEET EXPLAINING WHO, WHAT AND WHY THE FUG IS. FUNDING AND BUILDING HAVE ALREADY FELT A NEED FOR THIS AND CAN DO LITTLE MORE WITHOUT ONE. THE IDENTITY IS OF COURSE AN INTERIM/FRONT ONE, BUT SHOULD BE COHERENT AND CONVINCING. THIS IS TOP OF AGENDA FOR NEXT FORUM MEETING, BUT EVERYONE SHOULD MAKE NOTES IN THE MEANTIME.
- (a) what we want to achieve (Aims)
- (b) how --- concretely, specifically --- we hope to achieve it (Objectives)
2. Last Forum Meeting: there is a photocopy going round, of things discussed. The main matter --- a potential problem --- was that the Forum group seems somewhat closed, made up mostly of Here & Now people. The group is developing strategies ('Bully') to ensure (a) that the sphere is public enough to let newcomers enter discussions on an equal footing and (b) that discussions should be accessible and useful, not collective barings of souls.
3. For the Future: Some confusion noted as to Forum's role. It is for organising now, less for longterm Aims (a reason to keep reinvolving discussion of Aims in Finance and Building groups). Ideas: (a) travelling Fora (???)
- (b) --- a firm resolution --- to organise public meeting around theme of Glasgow 1990-Culture City (another idea: meeting about Doomsday and after???)
- (c) involve Forum in meetings around some guerilla art group for London visiting Transmission (I forget their name)

off Woodlands Road
(nr. Petrol Station)
NEXT FULL MEETING: April 25, 6.30 LYNEDECH STREET, no. 7, 40 E. WOODLANDS TRUST
BRING: good ideas for a FUG BENEFIT, around 14/21 June
notes for a Sheet to present to funders
names for list of people to tap money off

Rough agenda:

- (1) Look at what subgroups are doing - is there a need for reorganising?
- (2) Social Event
- (3) Forum ideas & planning
- (4) Constitution
- (5) Newsletter

(1) SUBGROUPS

A number of points were raised in relation to the subgroups and the communications between them and between them and the general body of members. Is there a need to make general meetings more frequent, to improve continuity/ speed up organising of business/ events? - at present there's a danger of things happening too autonomously. After consideration, it was agreed to have general meetings every 3 weeks on a trial basis for the next two meetings. At these meetings have time set aside for 'business'/sub-group report-backs and rest of time for ideas etc. discussion & planning. Next meeting is on 16th May, next after that on 6th June.

(2) SOCIAL EVENT & DAY F.U.G.

Possible venues: Friends of the Earth building: need to check out if the space is available. Maryhill Central Halls: 19th June is only available. social date. Need to find out likely cost. Purpose of social: funding/

* [social/ publicity. ^{NEXT} Meeting of interested folk on Thursday 14th at 57 [at 8.00pm] May West End Park Street. Aim for Friday 19th June.

Day F.U.G. event: After discussion it was agreed to hold day event same weekend as social. Date agreed was Saturday 20th. This would also tie in with Transmission event on the Sunday. Agreed an idea for day event: to bring together radical Scottish magazines (e.g. Radical Scotland, Cencrastus, Here & Now) - provide a forum for them to talk publicly about (their?) politics & their way of changing things/ how they see change happening. This would tie in with issues already raised for exploring within F.U.G. There was a possibility that the proximity of the election would restrict discussion to G. Election/ concrete change, but reckoned it would be interesting anyway. We could also hold a similar event in Edinburgh at a future date.

Date set for day event: Sat 20th June, 2 - 6 p.m.

The Building Committee will plan a venue - with enough space for a creche. Jenny will contact magazines.

There is a need for someone to take on co-ordinating of meetings. Agreed
to announce date & venue of meetings at general meetings so anyone
interested will know about it,
(4) CONSTITUTION: see below.

(5) NEWSLETTER.

Agreed to meet on Saturday 2nd May at 12 noon at
to discuss possible counter response to the Scottish Money Show.
Other ideas: Alternative banking, explore credit unions? How do we move
from self-interest to co-operative interest and avoid co-operative's
self-interest.

Constructing a contemporary way out of the money frame-up. Look at
security needs and possible alternatives: housing/ co-op housing; banks/
credit unions, etc.

Using video as a way of getting people to talk about why they do things.

Make contact with Glasgow Film & Video Workshop and Alva Film Workshop.

Someone from these organizations to be asked along to 'Money' meeting
on 2nd May. NEXT 'MONEY' meeting at 8.00pm FRI 8th MAY, at CAROL RHODES'S
110 HILL ST.

Contact list: Send, or bring to next meeting, names & addresses of any
groups/ organizations you have contact with that might be useful (see
Jenny). Also send or bring to next meeting names of groups/individuals
that F.U.G. could contact through you.

Form a 'Radio Listeners' Association' as a front to lobby government.

There's currently a Govt Green Paper out on local community radio. Contact
here might be: Lothian Youth Media Trust - John McVey.

Future reference: Using the Media (Pluto Press).

(Peter may do some work on this).
CONSTITUTION.

Peter reported back on Janet Castro's (SCVS) suggested changes to
constitution. Mainly minor & technical. On majority vote agreed to
withdraw clause that members/ council shd be at least 50% women.

Peter will pass on draft to CT for typing & send to Inland Revenue. While
IR are looking at it, it will be circulated to everyone, so final
constitution can be adopted a.s.a.p.

SCET: Sean Connery has not been contacted yet as he's been filming. It
was noted that document to be sent to SCET is not a manifesto but is to
ask for money. Document now is:

Why we want this building

Why there is a need for a FU

What is a FU

Who's involved.

Document needs finished. Problems writing the section on 'why there is
a need for a FU'. Nicky will be a re-centraliser for what's going on &
document will be brought to next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: 7 LYNEDOC STREET, CHARING CROSS, 16th MAY, at 6.30 P.M.

Minutes of F.U. Meeting 16th May 87 7 Lyndoch St.

Funding/Finance The RSAMD building which we wanted to buy has recently been sold elsewhere. A short discussion took place concerning whether we should be seeking funding for another large building or whether we should instead concentrate on raising money for a 'start up' year to cover two wages, office rental and running costs to cover events and meetings. It was agreed that the funding group, along with others, should draw up a one-year budget to submit to independent funding bodies.

Meeting for this purpose: Tues. 26th May at 7.30 pm, 1/R 71 Garnet St.

It was agreed to open a bank account as soon as possible to enable people to pay in by standing order. The account will be opened at the Bank of Ireland with four members of the funding group acting as signatories.

Accommodation Woodlands Trust has rooms to rent which could be used as initial office/meeting accommodation. A gymnasium building at Woodlands Teachers Centre is empty and might be available cheap from GDC. It is in need of renovation but might be worth looking to in long term.

Social Event Planned to take place in Maryhill Community Centre on Sat. 20th of June. Peter K., Paul M. and Ulrike S. to organise entertainment/music side. Malcolm D. and Gordon M. to do poster and Keith will print the tickets. Tickets will be given to members to sell (£2/£1 concession) by Monica McC..

Day Event Also to be held at Maryhill C.C. on 20th June. Afternoon event, probably 2-6 pm. Proposed that it should start with a general debate and then divide to more specific themes. 'Red and Green' proposed as initial topic. Jenny T. is meeting with representatives of some magazines to set up debate on their policies/positions. Alison and Monica will set up simultaneous workshop event for wider group.

Meeting to structure day: Fri. 22nd May at 7.30 pm, Carol's - 110 Hill St.

Newsletter Alastair D. agreed to edit next edition, based on day event. Send all ideas/info to him.

Other Events Peter and Malcolm shot some video material at the Scottish Money Show. They agreed to continue collecting interesting material in this way for future use. The Laura Ashley/ Ardrossan dispute was suggested as a future subject. After discussion it was agreed that the next day event should center around the 'regeneration' of Glasgow. Proposed date: July 11th - forum group to follow up.

Ulrike S. agreed to revise contact list of people involved in F.U. Alterations, new names and addresses to her, please.

Next General Meeting Sat. 6th June 6.30 pm, 7 Lynedoch St. Bring SAEs for distribution of information.

Minutes of a meeting of the free university of glasgow steering group on saturday 27th June at 57 west end park street.

[It was noted that a lack of clarity in the last minutes meant that some people had not come to this meeting. To avoid confusion, future Meetings shall be EVERY THREE WEEKS until further notice ?
saturdays at 7 Lynedoch Street, off Woodlands rd, Glasgow, 6.30,
18 July/8th August/29th August/19th September/10th October &c]

N E W S

The Virago Bookshop in London has closed down. Copies of the first issue of the Edinburgh based 'journal of a wholly new type' called Common Sense were passed around. MD gave details of the relaunch this autumn of the Glasgow based magazine of kulturkritik -VARIANT. PK passed around a copy of a 9 page essay by the Australian writer Meaghan Morris: 'the combination of radical professionalism, bureaucratisation and the sinking into lifestyle has produced a number of structural problems for the left, which are really starting to matter in terms of a decreased effectiveness in practical matters, and a drooping spirit in speculative ones...to plead against the tendency to say that things are too urgent now for serious people to be bothered with idle speculation, wild theorising, and lunatic prose. I think precisely the opposite: that things are too urgent now for the Left to be giving up its imagination...the very last thing that's useful now is a return to (as farce, rather than tragedy) the notion of one 'proper' critical style, one 'realistic' approach, one 'right concern.'

POSTMORTEM ON THE MARYHILL EVENT

JT reported that there was now £30 in the bank, but that she would chase up non-payers in order to refund several £10 and £20 which people had advanced. All the performers were paid. In future maybe less live entertainment. Where possible, musicians should be part of the FU and maybe just do it for expenses. PK suggested moving the occasional events to the Glasgow Arts Centre, and maybe combining with Maleis Pfeiffer there who has initiated the Scottish Political Song Network, we would be a useful resource as a rentacrowd.

On the DEBATE itself. Should have been more concise. Maybe split into the smaller groups after 15 mins, then come back together and end up by going straight into a social there and then, as some people went away and did not come back to Maryhill for the evening. Also, THE CLEANUP was not properly organised, too many of us just fucked off and that fucked off the 3 who did the dirty work. In the evening an embarrassing number of folk tackled through all the acts. Amp should have been higher. BC left by all to carry the can. Maybe smaller venue.

M A I L I N G L I S T / M E M B E R S H I P

Anyone with any addresses of people who might be interested in FU, please give them to Ulrike (339 6041). On the next mailing to the newly formed membership (currently at 132 people), a short questionnaire will be enclosed as well as a request for, say 10 saes in order to get the post sorted.

Carol will compile a decent stand in order form with address/bank details &c

F U T U R E D I S C U S S I O N S / E V E N T S

To what extent should FU seek to be umbrella for already-existing but working-on-parallel-lines—things like Glasgow Film and Video Workshop?

Call for more activity, maybe needed to keep up momentum so far. One example may be derive to Possil City Farm and then discussion. Talking is an activity too! Some felt that organising the social took up too much time from people who didn't know an awful lot about organising it, maybe more time should be spent on sharpening up the Forum.

A letter was passed around from the SIET saying that they did not give capital grants or contributions to running cpsts. PK to follow up

jayne

peter

allofus

ulrike

carol

jayne

peter

Discussion skills & Games

CR said that someone had suggested a gender day, which she at first thought would end up as just an exchange of banalities, but then had some creative discussion about the idea ... MAYBE at the beginning of the event/forum, men sit in circle with women in circle on the outside. First off the men talk, while the women take notes of their observations (the people in the outer circle should always have sellotape over their mouths. Then reverse the process. The discussion would have to be kept very tight. WE MUST BREAK DOWN THE TERRIBLE STRUCTURELESSNESS, learning from as opposed to rehearsing the debates of the 1970s

Something is needed to take away the Personality element of the whole thing - ownership of ideas barrier - need for a playful element. Try men writing down an idea/question/problem each on an index card, then having these shuffled and distributed among the women. Vice Versa. Same can be done of people A to K and then L to Z.

Maybe have woman chairing group of men and man chairing group of women.

ARBITRARINESS/CHANCE/PLAYFULNESS should be used to keep it open

Always have a fragment of people discussing the FU itself, for new people especially, and always chaired by someone who knows a bit about the history of the idea.

A question of people EXPANDING THEIR HORIZONS, not all groups have to be democratic, with everyone talking, but some should.

T O P I C S

Person who knows fact'n'figures about Merchant City
Gordon barbour who's making a video on Paddy's market
Radical architects (!!) on the Restructuring of Glasgow (tomconndy)
Is there a place for a workshop on utopian architecture w. shops?
Get a list of people's demands about issue to be raised and discussed
Then came an idea for

cathie
ulrike

A PICNIC

AT Pollok Park on Sunday 19th July
at 1pm: Bring food/drink/blankets

Reviving the idea of local history and the practice of citizens trespassing on what is their's.

B U Z Z G R U P P E S

The idea was to hold, smaller, slightly more specialised discussions with invited speakers who start off by talking for 5 or 10 minutes, and then open up to all on the basis of a pretext that has been circulated in advance. These to start at end of September in 7 Lynedoch Street (1st and 3rd Fridays and with maybe additional sessions on Thursdays and Fridays at School of Art & Transmission). People to bring names of possible speakers to next FU meeting. PK and KM to confer.

keith
peter

P R O E S T S

Last Thursday Prince Phillip live at homelessne4ss conference at the hospitality inn. The day after would be the Paddy's march. KM to keep in touch with IM from Clydeside Press to get info on these sorts of things night before 3-weekly meets.

keith

meeting began at 7.00

ended at 9.05

MINUTES OF FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING ON 18th JULY

Present: Billy Clark, Terry Delaney, Alastair Dickson, Kath Gallagher, Peter Kravitz, Keith Millar, Carol Rhodes, Karen Strang, Cathie Thomson, Nicola White

1. News
Common Sense issue 2 is now out.
A copy of *The Case Against the Poll Tax* (a Workers Party of Scotland pamphlet) was received from Jayne Taylor (on holiday).
We now have charitable status.

2. Widening the Core Group
The organisational priorities as we move into the next phase were discussed. The desirability of having a couple more people in the core group, with different interests, was discussed. This has to be balanced against scaring enthusiasts away by dumping them into business meetings. Priorities agreed as:
a) Getting mailing list consolidated on a WP (AD);
b) Restricting minutes mail-out to those perceived as being interested in business meetings;
c) Doing mail-out of autumn discussion programme, etc., to full list.

3. Small Discussion Meetings
Previous minutes had suggested late September start: KM queried this. General agreement on late-August start. Possible subjects were discussed, with tentative suggestions for speakers and dates in some cases [The bracketed individual is to check on each]:
- Anarchism in Glasgow in the 1940s (J. Raeside, August) [KM]
- History of the Scottish Womens' Movt. (E. King, 21st August) [CT]
- Radical Bookshops in Scotland (1st May, Changes, Lavendar Menace individuals, 4th Sept.) [PK/KM]
- Gender & Art (E. Patrick, 18th Sept.) [NW]
- Mediation (R.Gunn & W.Bonnefeldt, October)
- Joseph Beuys (C.Richardson & P. Mackay, November) [MD]
- The Clyde Citizen / Myth of the Clyde
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow Coalition
- Paulo Freire (G. Kirkwood)
- Computers in Society (A.Dickson)
- Ivan Illich
- Therapies
- Polmaise & Miners (T.Mylorrest) [KS]
- Italy's Mental Hospitals
- Gentrification
- Community Radio Stations
- Chartism in West Scotland
- Ordinary People in the War (P.Grafton, A. Calder) [KM,PK]
- Sport
- The Law (Seifert & Co, London)
- Carpentry
- Representations (Glasgow Media Group)
- Architecture
(Looking back on the list, the difficulty is going to be keeping the number of people at some of these *small*! What do we do about room overflow? -AD)

Where possible, such convivial discussions should call on expertise within the group / mailing list; the newsletter should try to encourage people to come forward.

4. Radical Scotland Article
Last week the editor of *Radical Scotland* had asked PK for an article on the June discussion meeting. AD, having previously written something following that discussion, agreed to send them a short piece by Tuesday (their deadline).

5. Sub-Group Activity

- Finance No progress on SIET knockback. Other independant sources of funding to be re-investigated. There should now be several Standing Orders running, enabling outstanding post-social debts to be paid. NW will investigate state of account in next few days. The newsletter mailing will contain an updated Standing Order form.
Building Anyone seeing likely buildings should contact CR (tel.334 2146).

6. September Forum on The Repackaging of Glasgow

This is the next large scale event to work towards. Agreed that it needs to be done well, with all background info. which anyone may have access to. CT knows people with *Merchant City reconstruction* info, and NW people with *Garden Festival* info. The *GEAR* legacy (behind the bouquets) should be part of it. JK apparently knows a statistician with interesting data. CT also mentioned a report slamming *GEAR*. There's also the *Paddy's Market* question. All this material should be drawn into a pre-text for the meeting (a pamphlet?). A re-constituted Forum Group will meet to consider all this further (see below).

7. Next Social Event

It was agreed to defer this question for the time being, and concentrate on the Forum.

8. Chat Shows & Forms of Discussion

There was a brief discussion on the recent C4 late-Friday night chatshows: KM wondered if anything could be learned from them as to different ways of structuring discussion.

9. The Picnic

The seemingly-inevitable downpour on the picnic the next day was discussed, and what contingency plans we should make. (In the event the gods smiled on us!) CT made the point that we should look out for anyone on their own, etc, as coming to an event with lots of little cliques could be very offputting.

Dates of Forthcoming Meetings:

Forum Group: 27th July @7.30, Nickie White, 71 Garnet St.

Funding Group: 29th July @6.30, Peter Kravitz, 57 West End Park St.

Building Group: 3rd August @7.30, Paul Maharg, 38 Park Rd (provisional)

Next full business meeting: 8th August @6.30, 7 Lynedoch St.

F.U.N.

Agenda for Monthly Open Committee Meeting

Midweek, last week of every month

- * Finance update
- * August/September Programme of Forums etc.
- * Membership/Subscription Information
- * Space for Social Centre/Literature Distribution
- * Objectives and links with other Projects
- * 2 Co-ordinators and stepping up interest/vitality
- * A.O.C.B.

Tuesday 24th July, 7 p.m.

Venue

Jim Kelmans,
244 West Princes St.,
Woodlands.

Tel. 334-7388

MINUTES...FUG... AUGUST 8
 Present: Keith M., John, Monica, Cathy T., Jayne, Allison, Craig, Sybil, Peter, Peter K., Carol, Alistair, Karen, and Simon.

NEWS

Carol passed round a newspaper cutting about the setting up of a parallel F.U. project in some country house in England (the architect Sir Hugh Casson and other established figures in 'public' life are involved); however it isn't truly FREE...they have suggested a sliding scale of fees relative to incomes etc... Expensive Yuppy things at one end and actually funding people to attend as the other extreme. (Sir Hugh Casson is 307)
 The Woman's Review Magazine has had to close down due to financial problems... apparently they are in the red to the tune of 14,000£
 News on Sunday have sacked their only Scottish reporter.
 Lavender Menece have moved their premises to Dundas Street, Edinburgh (and are considering changing their name in order to reflect their eighties aspirations)
 There is to be a FESTIVAL OF PLAGERISM in London Jan/Feb 88; for those interested in taking part the contact address is: Graham Harwood & Stewart Home,

Festival of Plagiarism,
 49 Sherwin House,
 Kennington Park Estate,
 London SE11 5SE
 01 735 0589

Those interested in political polemics, had their attention drawn to the worthy journal RADICAL SCOTLAND (and for those generally interested in a more culture arts intersection...there is to be a sort of mega picnic at the Glasgow Green on September the 12th.

Rumour has it that a similar project to FUG is happening NOW in Amsterdam...if anyone can get a contact address for FUG...go to.
 It was generally agreed that the title FREE UNIVERSITY should be replaced and damn soon before it sticks: all alternative suggestions welcomed.

Report Backs

Building Committee meeting moved to Monday 10th August.
 Funding Committee to pursue LOCAL GRANTS in order to finance the more immediate projects in hand...PAUL MAHARG to investigate especially to direct his attention to local councillors as this is a possible area for unconditional funding.
 The Gulbenkin funding body were thought to be another area for positive cultivation. The BUILDING & FUNDING committees both thought that they should meet together in the near future as there are many overlapping interests and also areas where they are symbiotic.....NO DATE WAS FIXED FOR THIS MEETING....WHY?
 Forum committee reported that some of the group had attended the meeting in a drink distorted state. This was Not Perceived Practical. Those who do so again will be asked to go away...as it is Not Constructive.
 The meeting itself was about the Garden Festival....Nicky White is acting Catalyst and all information, ideas and relevancies should be directed to her at: 71 Garnet Street, Garnethill (331 1768).
 MONICA has a useful contact who she is going to follow up in that connection.... PETER K knows someone who has experience of the LIVERPOOL GARDEN FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE to whom he shall write (er, was that not just before the Liverpool council entrenched against the government etc.?W)
 List of Small Discussion Groups (so far arranged)

all are on Friday evenings between 7&9

14th Aug Jimmy Raeside (Clydeside Anarchists)
 21st Aug Elspeth King (Woman's Suffrage)

other dates to be confirmed.....there was some debate about appropriate date for Garden Festival discussion and it was hoped that BRUNO DEL PIRE would be able to attend (relating the experiences of the Harbour tunnel and G.E.A.R. to the garden festival predicament, where people only began to protest when it was too late).

Further suggestions for discussions:

The Third Sector....CO-OPS, Credit Unions and so on.

Minutes of F.U.G. meeting ...Friday, 28th August. (Cottage Cafe).
In Attendance...
Nicola White, Carol Rhodes, Peter Kravitz, Keith Millar, Jane Taylor, Alison McLeod.

NEWS :

C.R. presented an article by Kate Harris in Young Quakers' Magazine, about a New University Project. N.W. is going to make contact. *It is Birmingham based*
K.M. suggested a good situationist pamphlet..." What is Situationism", 80p, from Changes Bookshop, West Princes St. .

P.K. produced a letter from a journalist, Ian Sutherland, (Scotsman, Herald), wanting to do a feature on F.U.G. . The general feeling is that it's a bit premature for this type of publicity.

A.M. mentioned an article by Jim Kelman in the Glasgow Herald, about taking part in the Fringe... excellent... will duplicate for next meeting.

OTHER :

Lib. Ed. Day Conference ... 3rd October, Countesthorpe College, Countesthorpe, near Leicester. 10am-6pm + evening entertainment. Crèche available.

£7 or £4 cons. , (£6, £3, if booked in advance.).

Exhibition and Lectures, based around June Jordan, writer and activist, and anti apartheid.
Battersea Art's Centre, Tuesday 8th Sept. - Friday 18th Sept. See P.K. for details.

BUILDING :

K.M. brought attention to 3 entire buildings, available in Newton Terrace, off Sauchiehall St. .

Large Room with smaller sectioned off area and gents' toilets (?), has been spied in Millar St., £6000 per annum.

How much space do we need? Concluded that renting a large room for a year was a cheaper and more concrete aim. If anyone sees any thing suitable, see C.R..

CIRCULATION & PUBLICISING :

Mailing List : guest speakers are not on it and should be on it.

Newsletter : has been sent out to all on the mailing list, which could cause problems if everyone turned up to discussions, ie 130 people.

N.W. suggested the Glasgow Art's Centre for future meetings , possibly free, and will be investigated.

Discuss problems of space at next meeting.

Division of labour within F.U.G. uneven, e.g. input for newsletter... All contributions to A.D. at 21, Keith Avenue, Stirling, FK77U7 .

FINANCE :

P.K. announced that G.I.E.P. are being asked by their patron to reconsider their refusal of our application for funding.

We do have £60 in the bank, therefore petty cash is available for photocopying, minutes, envelopes, stamps etc. ... see Nicky.

System of donations box at meetings, ie. Friday discussions & others, as limitations of standing orders have been noted.

NEW TITLE :

Only suggestion was from K.M....Well done! ...

A.L.L. , Association for the Liberation of Learning.

EVERYONE bring a suggestion to next meeting. .

FUTURE DISCUSSIONS :

Planning - Inside Decision Making, Bruno Del Priore, intro by Carol Rhodes... 4th Sept. 7pm Lyndoch St.

(We need more chairs--- lending or donations of chairs welcome!)

Gender in Design - Adele Patrick. Illustrated talk, organization... N.W.... 18th Sept. 7pm Lyndoch St.

Radical Bookshops - organisation P.K. ...2nd October.

Poll Tax (30th Oct.), P.K. has direct info. from London source but everyone is responsible for collection of material for this discussion.

Also, the full day discussion on Poll Tax should precede the Garden Festival discussion as it is more immediate. Discuss at next meeting.

Reshaping of Glasgow topic still needs more material and organization.

N.W. suggests Womens' Forms of Resistance... possibly linking up with future discussion on Witchcraft. Send any material, info., suggestions, to A.M. at P/R, 144 Woodlands Rd. .

Generally it was concluded that there should be some more practical themes, e.g.

Computing, brought forward, to intersperse with the more theoretical/discursive topics.

On computing, K.M. announced a mag. called Black Chip, a computer magazine for Anarchists, previously based in London, now in Wales. Ed. (?) Richard Alexander.

Further suggestions... Cults and Communities, suggested speaker Ian Holland.

ORGANISATION :

People organising specific talks MUST take responsibility for making sure that they have the keys for Lyndoch St., and have room organized in plenty of time.

Carol Rhodes is getting keys out, and Nicky White will be key holder for time being.

CO-ORDINATION OF MEETINGS :

In future we will try to co-ordinate General meetings every two weeks, alternating with Friday discussions, so that there are no weekends smothered with meetings...

General Meetings will now incorporate Building, Funding & Forum; these groups will organise themselves outwith if necessary. **NEXT: SATURDAY 12th SEPT, LYNDOCH 6.30**

EVENTS TO EMPHASISE:
Friday 11th September: Opening of Caterpillar Exhibition at 3rd Eye, 7pm
Saturday 12th September: 11am walk from George Square to Glasgow Green for 'Festival of Scottish Democracy' (sic)
6.30 meeting at 7 Lyndoch
Evening: Dick Gaughan and Chilean group at Maryhill Central Community Halls
Friday 15th September: Tom Lynedoch 'Gender in the Design Process'
Sunday 17th September: Mobile picnic, Meet 1st Winter Gardens Cafe, 10am
Friday 19th October : Tom Lynedoch, Radical Bookshops discussion

FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING ON 12th SEPTEMBER

Minutes of Meeting

1. Those Present.

Carol R, Nickie W, Keith M, Sybil W, Alastair D, Alison M, Jayne T, Alan, Billy C, Terry D.

2. News.

New issues of *Edinburgh Review*, *Here & Now* & *Counter-Information* have appeared.

An article in *The Guardian* about the Birmingham New University shows them to be teepee & yoghurt makers.

3. Merging Sub-Committees into Business Meetings.

Following on discussion at a recent funding/building meeting, it was agreed that it would be best to merge subgroup meetings into the fortnightly general business meeting, with the possibility of further subgroup meetings as and when required. AM was concerned at the general level of interest at even these meetings, KM thought an average 9 out of 18 interested in such matters wasn't that bad.

4. Funding/Building Meeting.

This discussion had seen the need to pick up various pieces which had been floating around inconclusively since early summer. Various people have information on these matters and this should be collated:

- What would be the running costs on a small place? (The rent on a place in Miller St. had been £6000 pa, others were double that; rates would be the same again; and then come the actual day-to-day costs...)
- JT said there were various possible short-term lets around Glasgow Green. KM pointed to the need to keep on at District/Region contacts re short-terms.
- One danger of short-term lease is that lots of energy could be expended on getting it into good nick, just in time to see it ripped down.
- How necessary is fixed space to the project (very much in the original idea). KM felt that the current set-up was providing a start: regular meetings, etc. AMcl saw all the energy disappearing *without* a fixed space. She and CR emphasised the need to *go for it!*
- Funding bodies need to be contacted: PK has a list; there's also the voluntary bodies pamphlet which KS showed CT last week - we should have a copy. NW suggested contacting one funding agency each. NW will obtain the information which PK & CT have.
- A begging letter + Standing Order form is needed for likely individual benefactors. Drafts for the next meeting.

5. The Poll Tax.

The planned small meeting on 30th October was discussed. There were differing views on the input needed: whether the basis of a coherent campaign should be *presented* at the meeting, or whether the meeting should be largely there to see what people *brought* to it.

We discussed sources of information:

- JMcT, in London, has various items of information (mainly on costs of collection?)
 - *Counter-Information* have a detailed piece for their next issue; KM will copy.
- and tactics:
- The whole thing is almost *a fait accompli*;
 - Spread of information is hardly enough;
 - Examples of pacifist MoD opposition show small marginalised groups campaigning, being warrant sale-d, jailed for a week. Courageous, but...
 - KM considered evasion to be likely to be divisive/studenty (eg it's easier to understate the people in a multi-occupied flat); Most people won't look favourably on this if they're having to pay;
 - Much depends on how it's collected.

From our point of view, everything depends on what people (us/others) *put into* the 30th October meeting: *Nothing will come of nothing.*

6. The Garden Festival.

AD's circular was noted. CT has borrowed a copy of the C4 documentary: a video or sound copy will be made. BC mentioned blurb received suggesting availability of officials for talking to organisations. Also possibility of some people touring site, getting official perspective.

7. Subjects for Further Discussions.

The next meeting will have to decide the Nov-Jan discussions. It was agreed that the range of subjects needed broadening, eg computer talk (AD suggests the theme as *What Do Computers Do and What Do They Do To People?*). Other potential subjects:

- R. Gunn on Alienation (Nov., organised by Edinburgh people?)
- *Pleasure Tendency* (probably Jan.15th)
- Ian Brown on Swaziland experiences (Jan)
- Thirties Workers Films (D. Allen, suggested by SW)
- Money (Willie Roe, suggested by NW/CT)

Provisional Agenda for Next Meeting.

- (1) News.
- (2) Funding Situation:
 - Current input into bank account;
 - Funding bodies worth approaching.
- (3) Building Situation:
 - Running costs of comparable examples (eg Transmission?);
 - Contacts regarding short-term lets, etc.;
 - How would building be used, day-to-day?
- (4) Mail-Out Concerning Forthcoming Discussions:
 - Finalising programme;
 - Any other newsletter input (other events, etc.);
 - Standing Order letter (for selected individuals).
- (5) Garden Festival: What Next?
- (6) Poll Tax: Provisional Material for discussion on 30th September.
(Meeting at 6.30 on Saturday 26th September, at 7 Lynedoch St.)

MINUTES OF FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING ON 26th SEPTEMBER

1. Those Present.

Carol R, Nickie W, Keith M, Sybil W, Alastair D, Alison M, Jayne T, Craig M, Jim K, Graham, Peter K, Simon C, Malcolm D, Ruth McM, Nick S, Paul S.

2. News.

Various anti-Poll Tax leaflets were circulated, including those by Portsmouth Anarchists, the RCP, and the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Union (a WPS front).

3. Funding.

We currently have approx. £60 in the bank, derived mainly from individual donations and a few Standing Orders. This is enough to cover postage, but little else. The need for a letter which members can use to encourage donations was restated: *NW promised this for the next meeting.*

PK will type a list of charitable trusts whose areas of interest might coincide with some of ours. These organisations will then be checked out by various "volunteers", so that any application can be properly geared to their interests.

CT will investigate the possibility of local government grants.

4. Building.

Following a very familiar discussion about the pros and cons of various types of accommodation, it was again agreed that we should spend our immediate energies on securing a short-term (1 yr) space: fairly central, comprising one large room for meetings, a smaller space for office/library and basic facilities. *CR & JK agreed to investigate the availability of such spaces in cheap areas* through estate agents and sympathetic architects. Following up on this, a small group needs to assemble an outline budget for rent, running costs and programme, so that we can make a funding application.

5. Mail-Out and Forthcoming Discussions.

Dates into February were scheduled:

October 16th	The Poll Tax (<i>KM & AD</i> : possible Stirling DC speaker)
October 30th	Liverpool After the Garden Festival (<i>CT</i>)
November 13th	Mediation / Alienation (Richard Gunn & Werner Bonnefeld: <i>JT/MMCd</i>)
November 27th	Beuys & The Greens (C. Richardson: <i>MD</i>)
December 11th	Paolo Freire (Edinburgh Adult Learning Project: <i>PK</i>)
January 15th	The Pleasure Tendency (<i>KM</i>)
January 29th	Pulp Fiction (<i>SW</i>)
February 12th	Computers & People (<i>AD</i>)

The Poll Tax day event will be reconsidered in the light of the response to the Oct.16 talk.

Other ideas suggested for the future included talks by Douglas Allen and Simon Frith, and some type of event by Tom Leonard (sound-poetry).

There was some debate over how far ahead these talks should be advertised: the dangers of circulating an unconfirmed programme vs. the need to cut down on mail-outs.

Considering these discussions so far, it was generally agreed that lengthy talks should be discouraged. Ideal would be a written text circulated in advance, a speaker giving presentation of up to 20 minutes, followed by question-and-answer leading to discussion. *SW* objected to elitist terminology in a previous talk and felt that this was to be discouraged, but others felt that we couldn't determine the way speakers expressed themselves.

PS felt that more of these talks could come from people within the group rather than always bringing in people from outside.

The new programme will be included in the next Newsletter, which will also contain an FU Census slip (Stop sending me this information / send me more) and will present the option of a networking system of names / interests similar to our original Members' Register idea. The Newsletter will also contain news of interesting events in other venues eg Transmission. News & items to *AD* by 12th October.

6. Garden Festival.

Information gathering proceeds. *CT* has a video copy of *C4* investigation. A separate meeting is needed in a few weeks to gather the strands and plan the day event.

7. 1990 Kultur.

PK raised the possibility of the FU collating a book to coincide with 1990.

Next Meeting: 6.30 on Saturday 10th October, at 7 Lynedoch St.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW PLANNING GROUP ON
SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER *('8: 1987 AT 7 LYNDOCH STREET.

NEWS

RCP leaflet about the Poll Tax passed round. They are having some meeting at 11am on Sat 17th Oct at McClellan Galleries.

People alerted that tomorrow's Weekend World TV show is on the Poll Tax, with some interviews in Glasgow (ie. last Sunday).

The 1st of May Bookshop in Edinburgh has gone into liquidation.

PK handed out remaindered copies of a book on the Clyde Rent Strikes @ 15p. See him.

IM alerted existence of new mainstream greeny mag called 'Environment Now', published by Holmes McDougall from Glasgow.

A few people in Edinburgh are setting up a philosophy/ideas discussion group. Detail soon.

IM suggested a regular Glasgow based discussion group for political issues specifically.

PK asked if anyone had ever had any contact with someone called Loening from The

Centre for Human Ecology in Edinburgh. Apparently they've had good FU-type talks past 7

Another x-disciplinary discussion group is run by John Purser in Glasgow...info??? Years

TALES

POLL TAX

Simon from Direct Action has been asked. Man from Stirling may come to next Friday's meeting but would probably be better for the big day-thing in the future.

There is an @ conference in Glasgow on 14th November. More info later. AD has done a

digest of material on the p. tax. This is being handed out with this sheet. Not to

forget the Anti-Poll Tax Union in Glasgow and also the sheet from Portsmouth Cs.

PK will get material sent up from Scots bloke councillor in London.

GARDEN FESTIVAL

If Liverpool people fail to materialize, then the meeting on October 30th will be a specific discussion, planning for big say meet. CATHIE T to get keys for this one.

Maybe try to get CT's friend the TV researcher to this meeting.. It was reported that

teachers are being asked to put pressure on kids to get their parents to buy these

costly £15 family tickets for fest. Plus there's a booth in the Savoy Centre. There will

be a UN peace garden. Andan Ian Hamilton finally Garden. We were reminded that Strathclyde Region made their Peace Park in East Kilbride on the same site as the emergency bunker.

OTHER TALKS

IM has been in touch with Glasgow resident Pete Grafton who wrote the Pluto book

called You, You and You! About individual resistance during the WW2. Maybe he can talk to

us sometime. There is also G. Woolladton who came to the bookshops night last week. He

would be good for the Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Romance & Sci-Fi night.

FUNDS

NW passed round photocopies of a letter for individual fundraising.

PK will pass out a list of grant-making bodies at business meeting in a fortnight.

He will also send copy of talks programme with a reminder to Mr SE and SIET.

BUILDING

CH floated an idea to get 30 or 40 people to put in £10 a month each and then

use this for rent or mortgage on a couple of rooms. She has got on the list to get

particulars. To ponder: is this pressure over our heads likely to be constructive or not or what.

JT suggested anyway that it would be good to draw up a list of places where we can

meet at nil or low cost like Lynedoch St. Transmission, maybe French institute, Goether.

There is some news that the Washington Street Arts Centre is being wound down slowly

by various posts not being filled etc. Keep ears open.

FUTURE FU MEETINGS ARE EVERY OTHER SATURDAY AT 7 LYNDOCH STREET UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

AT EACH MEETING SOMEONE SHOULD VOLUNTEER TO GET KEYS FOR THE NEXT ONE. IF THIS IS DONE

RIGHT, NO ONE NEED DO IT MORE THAN ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS.

MEETINGS: 24th OCTOBER, 7th NOVEMBER, 21st NOVEMBER, 5th DECEMBER, 19th DECEMBER

9th JANUARY, 23rd JANUARY etc.

F.U.G. MEETING, 24th OCTOBER, 1987, at the COTTAGE CAFE.

1. Those present.

Carol K. Jane T. Alas Gair D. Peter K. Karen S. Granam S. Sybil W. Alison M.

2. News.

Three letters in the pigeon hole, wanting more information about F.U.G.
J.T. received a very positive reply, with information, from the Birmingham based New University. A magazine and more information available from J.T.

3. Direction.

It is still felt that as a group, we are lacking in definite direction, and that this is affecting everything ~~more~~ else....



Discussions recently were felt to be overly serious, and the subject matter needs more contrast / variation.

Also noted were practicalities affecting attendance... timing, no facilities for kids, other commitments, etc.

Comparing the New University with F.U.G., the ~~new~~ N.U. is considerably more practically based, as opposed to the present more theoretical nature of the F.U.

J.T. is presently working on a French Class project, people learning from each other ... more news later.

A blending of subjects is also thought to be a good approach, e.g. Gardening to Philosophy... An F. U. Allotment was suggested...

(What about a typing class)

Some mention of overpoliticisation of subjects....(who said that...)

4. Base.

(Again), the discussion arose around the need for a base. It is generally felt that a base is needed to co-ordinate and develop.

C.R. proposed that a minimum of £4000 would secure a starting point, (renting). Small grants' sources are still likely to be the most promising - C.T. to be contacted about I.C. Grant.

Alternatively, 40 people willing to commit themselves to donating £10 a month, would rent a space.

At present, Lyndoch St. could be used more fully.

5. Previous discussions.

The appropriateness of The Poll Tax, for a full day meeting was questioned. Considering the newly sprung campaigns, it was felt that documentation of these would be adequate at present. Newsletter on F.T. to be collated, and info., cuttings and letters to pigeon hole 9 at ~~Changes~~.

In future, meetings of this nature should be divided into workshops, with reference to the F.T. meeting on Oct. 16th.

6. Building.

C.R. Building has been spied at 142 West Nile St. . £3,700 annually, plus rates. However, lack of funds prevents us from doing anything about it.

7. Future Talks :

Friday 30th Liverpool After the Garden Festival. C.T. / P.K.
Friday 12th Mediation / Alienation..... Hegel
CV. Friday 27th Dewys & the Greens

8. Keys :

7th Nov. C.S.
21st Nov. C.R.
5th DEC J.T.

EXCUSE THE TYPING...

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING 7th November
6.30pm

Present: Graham s., Jayne T., Sybil W., Alastair D., Peter k., Carol R.,
Alison Mc., Nicola W.

FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING 7th NOV. '87, LYNDONCH ST.

NEWS: A programme entitled 'Cities of the future' featuring Glasgow will be shown on Ch.4 on Wed. 11th. Several places have been booked for a public discussion on this on Thurs. 11th.
Poll tax opposition moves on apace with Edinburgh & Glasgow District Councils refusing to participate (how much difference will this make ?) and even church leaders starting a campaign.
Mixed media evening at Glasgow tech. on the 19th of Nov. featuring painting, video, bands etc.
One-day video courses being run by North Kelvinside Community Resource Centre on 24th Nov. and early in Dec. at cheapo fee - £1.50
Jayne T. reported on mutual French lessons (sounds like a euphemism) started up on a regular basis. For details see JT.

FINANCE: CT passed on details of community grants to AMC. Alison will liaise with SW to make an initial approach to see if we might qualify.

PK needs to finish a list of charitable trusts which can be allocated to various members of the group to investigate. This is now urgent.

Ideas needed for a possible fund-raising event in the next few months.

AD raised the need for a comprehensive information sheet which can be sent to enquirers based on, but moving on from, the SIET letter. he will present a draft at the next meeting.

TALKS Doug Allan replied to our invitation and will head talk on oppositional groups in 20C Glasgow/Scotland (is this correct?) Possible date is FRi Dec 18th.

SW will ask Simon Frith to give a talk on music & politics

NETWORKING ETC.: Need to think forward to what type of events would occur in a full-time space and in what ways we could expand our present activity. Most expressed a wish to move from theoretical discussions to more practical/active activities. We do have the opportunity of using Lyndoch St. on other evenings so space is not an immediate problem. Drumming class suggested.

SW suggested a film-viewing evening followed by discussion which gave rise to merriment and displays of personal taste. This being accepted as A GOOD IDEA, SW invited people to 2 Belhaven Tce on Sun. 22nd Nov. at 6.30 pm to see 'Desperately Seeking Susan' (availability permitting)

AD INFORMAL TALKS: AD will circulate an article from 'New Review' on the American left which could form the basis of an informal discussion similar to a previous one which took place on the Green movement in Italy.

NW drew attention to a series of articles in the current Artscribe on situationism which could provide a similar starting text for discussion.

JT suggested a future discussion around homeopathy and other alternative medicines in relation to Aids and the development of new disease forms. No date set yet, as it would be good to make contact with specific speakers, expertise etc.

Next business meeting: Sat. 21st Nov., Lyndoch St.

MINUTES OF FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING ON 5th DECEMBER

Those Present

Nickie W, Peter K, Keith M, Alastair D, Jayne T, Sybil W, Graham S, Alison McL, Nick S

1. Finance

Inappropriate funding agencies were eliminated from the list, and the remainder were split up as follows:

AD Allachy Trust, Gemmell Bequest, McGregor's Trust
GS CULRA Charitable Trust, Hedley Foundation, 1970 Trust, Earl & Countess of Perth(!)
NS Boots, Hilden, Bryan Lancaster
NW Carnegie, Gulbenkian
JT De La Rue, Kennyhill Bequest, Penrhyn
PK Falkland Community, Orrin Charitable
SW Foreman, Russell & Mary, Kilgarth, Dr L H A Pilkington
AMcL Forman's Trust, Leverhulme, Radley

Initially, a basic inquiry letter will be sent (sample & letterhead paper enclosed for those involved). Thereafter, the Prospectus will be sent. AD will circulate a draft for discussion & amendment.

2. Talks & Their Organisation

We discussed the previous week's Beuys discussion. It was felt that the seating limit in Lynedoch St. is also the limit on participants in a discussion: as with the Poll Tax meeting, those out of line-of-sight of the main circle feel outside the discussion and unable to get in. It was re-emphasised that the worth of any discussion cannot be measured by what is said *inside* the room: the level of animation in discussion afterwards is at least as important.

It was pointed out that the "Nicola" in the talk schedule for 25th March is not Nicola Webber, and that the person who had been suggested didn't want to take such a prominent part in a discussion.

Paulo Freire will be in Scotland next May with one of his students: one of them should be approached for a discussion. CT is interested in this.

3. Arrangements for Keys

AMcL is collecting the keys for the meeting on 11th December (Paulo Freire) and JT is collecting them for the 18th December (Doug Allen on *Independant Film & Video in Glasgow from the 1930s*).

4. Hogmanay

AMcL raised the question of organising a party at or around the New Year. PK didn't feel like repeating his organisation of last year's Edinburgh Review one (least of all with Gerry Sadowitz!). People are generally keen on the idea, and AMcL and MD are probably going to organise one.

5. Publications

NS mentioned a new photocopied magazine he's involved in: *Discourse: A Critical Journal of Philosophy*. Having exhausted the original print-run, he'll bring reprinted copies to the meeting on 11th December.

6. Future Business Meetings

It was agreed to revert to having business meetings in people's flats. The next one will be in Nickie White's (at 71 Garnet St) on 9th January.



Pigeonhole 9
c/o Changes
340 West Princes St
Glasgow G4 9HF

Minutes of FUG meeting - 19th March 1988 at 29 Arlington St.

Present: Nicky White, Susan Payne, Keith Millar, Jack Campin,
Sybil Watts, Jayne Taylor, Alison McLeod - Minutes.

Apologies: Dick & Karen - in Paris
Peter Krowitz - in Budapest
Carol Rhodes - in the 'Half'

1. News: Keith brought various interesting leaflets including Glasgow College of Tech. - Techbeat
Poll Tax leaflet from Community Resistance to the Poll Tax (excellent)

On subject of Poll Tax Sybil reported that Glasgow University has a large board sporting a petition against Poll Tax waiting for more signatures "I'm not paying the Poll Tax - are you?"

Malcolm Dicksons Installation in Third Eye Centre Tuesday 22nd March - 26th March (very interesting).

2. Newsletters: Synchronisation needed to double up with Transmission's newsletters as mailing lists overlap somewhat - save on stamps.

Next newsletter will contain the FU shorts on past meetings - some still to be collected!

The present leaflet will be replanned with an intro Jayne, Sybil and Jack. Possibly mail out to 150 people.

3. The Future:- Peter sent in some ideas via Keith.
 1. Friday night forum should be suspended in June.
 2. Monthly meetings begin. Larger public meetings on popular subjects in venues such as public libraries. Saturday afternoons a possibility.
 3. Selection of public forums leading up to Parliament from scratch. Conference September 1988 being organised by Peter and Jenny Turner.
 4. Again need for creche if we are to become more public.

5. Less popular subjects would be scheduled mid-week, days flexible subject to Lyndoch St. being available.
4. Changes Bookshop: About to close for various reasons, lack of finance/support. Possibility of using part of Transmission area if they move to a larger space. e.g. World Magazine Reference library (idea Peter) - magazines held in binders available for reading or loan.

Administration would come from F.U. F.U. must also remember their decision to form a support group for Changes (decided at talk on small bookshops).

- * Suggestions of what's needed
network of information on bookshop admin. info on stock ordering, promotion of awareness of radical bookshop, in part, Changes.
- * through community groups and taking bookstalls to meetings etc.
- * Quarterly meeting to coordinate radical literature distribution.

Sybil and Jack to attend meeting at Changes on 23rd March.

(update: Changes to continue till June. Contact Pigeon Holes now cost £15, Support Group concept needs clarified)

Again idea was raised of a Glasgow writers choice of Top Ten Books.

Finance: Book on Trusts - Keith.

Play Reading afternoon - to be announced. Drop a line to Allison if interested.

8th April Lyndoch st. - Paul Brown Law - Keys Jayne (only 8 people turned up).

22nd April Lyndoch St. - Ivan Ilich Peter and Dick -- Keys Peter

6th May, various Scottish writers (who is organising this? - Peter)

20th May, Lyndoch st. - Jayne Taylor Postal Art Fluxus.

25th May, in Travel
Anti-Poll-Tax Picket: Monday 18th April 5 p.m. 40 Cochrane St. (next to City Chambers) Poll Tax Registration Office.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING MONDAY 25TH APRIL AT JIM KELMAN'S, 244 WEST PRINCES ST. TOP LEFT. 6.45 P.M. Please make an effort to attend.

Provisional Agenda *European Travel Talk -*

1. News
2. Correspondence
3. Meetings and New Forums
4. Direction and Future Plans

25TH MAY WED.

MINUTES OF FREE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MEETING ON 25th April 1988

1. Present

Alison McL., Jim K, Keith M, Graham S, Nicky W, Cathy T, Carol R, Jayne T, Peter K.

2. Finance

There is £390 in the F.U. account. (Why haven't we been spending it?)

Donation of £5 to Keith for F.U.

3. News and Other

We are a support group for Changes bookshop - please suggest titles for new books at the next business meeting.

4. New Forums

The pattern of every second friday "small talk" forums is to be broken. The feeling that this arrangement is in danger of becoming stagnant led to the idea of a larger, monthly forum which will still allow for smaller discussions to happen inbetween (With varied times and days for convenience). These and the larger meetings could also be held in a variety of places. eg; Libraries

Washington Arts Centre?

Clubs - eg Queens Crescent

Berkley st, musicians club (Star Club moved there)

Boys Brigade, Bath st

Volunteer Centre, Elmbank st

Each person at this business meeting is to find out times of opening, cost if any, and space available, of one of these places.

Definite allocations: Hillhead Library - C. Rhodes

Boys Brigade - A. McLeod

Maryhill - N. White

Queens crescent - P. Kravitz

5. Ideas For New Forums

*Jim has invited Chomsky (Linguist, philosopher, mathematician) to speak in Jan - no reply as yet.

*Islamic Revolution (there is someone who is keen to organize talk and discussion on this)

*Pulp fiction part 2 (a series?)

*What happened to Feminism?

*AIDs - alternative medicine

*Green Party - there are contacts in Germany

*Schizophrenia

*New Economics

*Contradictions in Community work - Whos Community?

*Masculine Sexuality

*The 81 Club (made up of writers, a kind of F.U.) from Leningrad are willing to come to speak and to pay their own fares. They need an official invitation, this only

New Forums cont.

*Art/Drawing - see Carol R. or Alison McL.

*Jim K. would like to initiate a writers group/Union which could move around Drumchapel, Lynedoch st, Bridgeton...

*Play reading - already underway - see Alison

*Eastern European Travel Talk - see end of minutes

6. Other Activities

Regular walks. There will be a walk up the Cobbler - Jim will hire a minibus. 29th May.

Phone Alasdair Gray or Carol Rhodes at 3342146 for confirmation and detail.

NOTE that a special discussion "Political Tourism" (A cheap holiday on other peoples struggles) is to be held tues. 24th May 7.30pm. Contributions from a young person who has spent 7 months in Europe, Alistair Dickson just back from Poland, (also most likely a host of F.U. members)

NEXT F.U. BUSINESS MEETING IS ON THE 16TH OF MAY, AT 6.45PM.

NICKY WHITES FLAT
71 GARNET STREET
GARNETHILL

Company
Lords of Mistrule
ref
Derek McLuckie

5. Less popular subjects would be scheduled mid-week, days flexible subject to Lyndoch St. being available.
4. Changes Bookshop: About to close for various reasons, lack of finance/support. Possibility of using part of Transmission area if they move to a larger space. e.g. World Magazine Reference library (idea Peter) - magazines held in binders available for reading or loan.

Administration would come from F.U. F.U. must also remember their decision to form a support group for Changes (decided at talk on small bookshops).

- * Suggestions of what's needed
network of information on bookshop admin. info on stock ordering, promotion of awareness of radical bookshop, in part, Changes.
- * through community groups and taking bookstalls to meetings etc.
- * Quarterly meeting to coordinate radical literature distribution.

Sybil and Jack to attend meeting at Changes on 23rd March.

(update: Changes to continue till June. Contact Pigeon Holes now cost £15, Support Group concept needs clarified)

Again idea was raised of a Glasgow writers choice of Top Ten Books.

Finance: Book on Trusts - Keith.

Play Reading afternoon - to be announced. Drop a line to Allison if interested.

8th April Lyndoch st. - Paul Brown Law - Keys Jayne (only 8 people turned up).

22nd April Lyndoch St. - Ivan Illich Peter and Dick - Keys Peter

6th May, various Scottish writers (who is organising this? - Peter)

20th May, Lyndoch st. - Jayne Taylor Postal Art Fluxus.

25th May, in Travel
Anti-Poll-Tax Picket: Monday 18th April 5 p.m. 40 Cochrane St. (next to City Chambers) Poll Tax Registration Office.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING MONDAY 25TH APRIL AT JIM KELMAN'S, 244 WEST PRINCES ST. TOP LEFT. 6.45 P.M. Please make an effort to attend.

Provisional Agenda *European Travel Talk -*

1. News
2. Correspondence
3. Meetings and New Forums
4. Direction and Future Plans

25TH MAY WED.

Free University Network

Minutes of open Committee Meeting 14/6/89

Present: Ian Brown, Nick Smith, Carol Rhodes, Jack Campion, Keith Millar, Jim Kelman (Minutes)

AGENDA

1. IMF Meeting - believed now to be 1990. Protest action from other groups (Left/Green/Third World) likely.

2. Autonomous Political Forums:-
(a) Friday July 14th - 7.15 p.m.

Green values, power and political change. Forum with the participation of guests from De Gruenen (Green Movement) in West Germany, ex Bundestag M.P. councillor in Ruhr and other activists.

Venue: Transmission Gallery, 28 King St. off Argyle St./Trongate

(b) Living in Credit/Living on Credit. Forum on the values, stability and lifestyle of Western societies. Fuller explanation in Mailshot.

Friday 18th August 7.15 Transmission Gallery

3. Paul Smith planning poetry reading and study of the Breton version of surrealism September.

4. Self determination and power

1990, 10-12th January. This is by far the biggest event associated with the F.U.N. Jim Kelman and Scottish Child Magazine have confirmed that Noam Chomsky to definitely appear and leading dissenting 3rd World writers. To play an active part in organising this, attend a special business meeting on Thursday 20th July 7.p.m. at Jim Kelman, 244 West Princes St., Kelvinbridge. Fuller account in Mailshot.

5. Transmission Gallery:- An enormous amount of work was carried out by the Gallery Committee with the help of a few volunteers in the F.U. Network. The Festival of Plagiarism is centred in the week 4th August - 11th August, although the Exhibition will be open till end of August.

Address: 28 King St., Tel. 552-4813

6. Mail:- A pruning operation has been carried out by Jack, with those 'unknown' to collective activists been requested on the last mailing to confirm they want to receive mailings. We have also had a number of returned mailings, caused by people who failed to inform us of changes of address. Mention was made by Nick Smith and others of some people who couldn't recollect getting Mailshots. It is imperative people display the Mailshot in their flat to help them recall meetings and times.

7. Publicity:- It was felt that new interest could be attracted by posters in special venues (Carol and Nick to do) such as 'watering holes' (pubs), Galleries and the List Mag. and perhaps 'What's On' in the Evening Times. Also to ask people in other networks to publicise F.U. Mailshot and events.

8. Finance:- Charitable Status does require an annual statement of accounts. Jack to prepare. Concern raised at only 2 Monthly Standing Orders current from AD and KM. Some others have given Annual or occasional amounts. If people don't want to offer Standing Orders, then donation of sheets of stamps would be appreciated from those who can afford it. Ian Brown or Jack to hold cheque book (Stasia also a signatory).

9. Report from May/June Events:-

(a) Painting group, worthwhile, Ian Brown reported facilities in Pearce Institute made available by Stasia and Tony.

(b) Bute trip - 3 only turned up (I.B., K.M., and Dave Carruthers) - eventful 10 mile walk on warm day, partly through coastal swamp!

(c) Derive - only 3 on a beautiful night. Stasia, Tony and KM wandered over footbridge to Gorbals and Oatlands, and back via classical concert in Peoples Palace. Class and alienation paramount among tower blocks.

(d) Autonomous forum on nationalism/economic change, included participation of two from Leeds. Discussion changed from Eastern Europe dissent to culture and Scottish identity. 10 present.

(e) Arrangements finalised for Nicaragua slide show meeting.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING THURSDAY AUGUST 22ND AT TRANSMISSION GALLERY, 7.15 p.m.

THIS IS OPEN TO ALL ON NETWORK MAILING LIST.

MINUTES OF F.U. BUSINESS MEETING - WED. 9th JAN. 1990 AT S.A.P.

Attended by Carol Rhodes, Malcolm Dickson, Margaret Murray, Karen Vaughan, Ross Sinclair, Keith Miller, Jim Ferguson, Jim Kelman, Ramsay, Alan Finlay.

1/2 REPORT ON KING ST/PREMISES

Disadvantages confirmed; Top floor with restricted access to lift, closes at 5pm, front door locked.
JF & MM have arranged a meeting with the council's estates dept. for Fri. 11/1, to specify F.U. requirements Re. size (2-3000 sq. ft.), rent/rates (inc. rates policy for charities), minimum lease - there was agreement that most of these specifications were not fixed due to the possibility of temp. premises coming up in the meantime. Also to present an outline of F.U. activities (?)

Possibility of a space in the present Tron theatre store?
CR & MD reckoned that the Garnethill space was dodgy; the owner wouldn't name a fixed price, there were factor's bills involved etc...

There's been no progress Re. the Charing X studio spaces, tho' RS & KV reckoned they'd be too expensive.

MD suggested finding out about the old Hope st. bookshop premises.

KM suggested compiling a list of possible premises outwith the contacts with GDC.

3. FUNDRAISING

AF will meet Primevals next week to talk about expenses, P.A. etc..., after confirming dates with MM. (1st week in Mar.)

No word from MR on contact with Wild River Apples.

If more than 1 band is willing to get involved MD suggested extending it into more than one night.

Publicity approx.; £50, P.A. approx.; £95

Other fundraisers would not be the same kind of event - probably a ceilidh or a cabaret.

Other possible fundraising approaches; a bar in the new premises, more concerted efforts to collect money from within the group.

A fundraising sub-group was thought to be unfeasible until the premises are settled.

4. FINANCES/S.A.P. COSTS

IDEAS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OR EVENTS
ARE WELCOMED

The Free University NETWORK

All Meetings At
Transmission, 28 King St.
7.30 pm

Post-Kravitz 16.10.90

SPECIAL 'BUSINESS' MEETING

TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. for 7.45 start

Malcolm Dicksons,
Button 1/3,
61 Cecil St. (Junction Gt. George St./ Bute Gdns.),
(Hillhead Underground)

THURSDAY MEETING
VIDEO THURSDAY

Provisional Agenda

- ✓ 1. Correspondence/Survey result (see encl. sheet)
- ✓ 2. Anarchy or chaos: How to organise our finance and administration relative to speakers/talks etc.
- ✓ 3. Main Topic
Link up with collective hoping to utilise warehouse off Byres Rd. (Hillhead U). Can we start a serious project to open a Social Centre?
4. Progress report on discussions and our assault on apathy.
5. Progress report on Chomsky book, video, canonisation.
6. Any Other "Competent Business" — night social

TUESDAY 7PM 62 Saltan ST

Further Enquiries 339-4287/427-6398 etc.

Note: Thursday meetings 18th (Philosophy), 25th (Community Action), 1st November (Education), 8th (Ireland Video). All at 7.30 Transmission.

COPY OF
TO TRANSMISSION
ON THURSDAY

MINUTES OF FU BUSINESS MEETING...Thurs 20th at Saltoun Street, 7.30.

1. 'Taking Them On', Workshop Day on 15th December 1990.

Despite the failings of the FU's 'marketing' (KM) the day attracted the right amount of people (40-50) for such an event within our given space. RS suggested more visual attention to publicity in future. The day considered a success, despite a certain lack of structure (MD), and many of the workshops lack of focus (direction?), excepting the Workers City forum.

Heating cost £32 and didn't do much good. More consideration next time to such matters, especially when one individual is left to make decisions when it concerns money, since a quote of £380 was handed out to MD from one company.

'Lack of structure' led into our ongoing problem of organisation. Such an open structure allows new members (are they members or just passing through on their way to another party meeting?) to attend business meetings thereby setting important matters to be discussed back a few paces whilst we struggle over a definition of what 'we are all about'. The need for a statement of intent or policy statement raised again (MD). This does apparently exist (KM). JK to put together some material. Although FU always appear disorganised, a cohesion is there (KM) among the core members which is based on an openness and an assumption of trust and self-direction since we do not carry out the imperatives of the organisation or answer the call from up-high. What is hinted at is something fundamentally different in kind.

2. PREMISES

JK, BC, and JF looked at 2 spaces in inner-East End: King Street and Howard Street, both owned by GDC. Meetings with Sun Life House to be pursued by JF. MR brought up bookshop project, who would staff it, and how would we pay the rent etc, expressing the view that lack of efficiency might be determining our vision, since decisions were always delayed. Several meetings have occurred since we moved into SAP space and not enough people attend so we are sometimes held back on decision making. MD suggested that certain individuals will have to be entrusted with decision making in certain matters that we need to move on, and this could be applied throughout the FU's structure.. KM expressed concern on the overheads for such a new space (both roughly estimated at £6000 per annum) and on rates, and that we need a limit we can go to. At this point we need to invite people with more business know-how to attend meetings and to even undertake work for us.

Statement of aims: KM to contact AD.

3. FUND RAISING

Possible event on Burns Night or Valentines Night. MM to enquire to Bennets Disco.

4. SAP SPACE

RS and KV to contact Martin Udowitz about keeping space on, or at least to store the furniture for the present time, JK and to contact JK with the result. JK said East Cambell Street artists studios available for storage.

END

Meeting attended by Jim Kelman, Keith Millar, Mark Robinson, Tracy Malcolm Dickson, Margat Murray, Karen Vaughan, Ross Sinclair, and 2 new faces.....

FU Minutes of meeting at 61 Cecil Street on 18/3/91

1. Primevals concert estimated to have lost £290. Costs were apporximately as follows:

PA - £100
Band - £150
Venue - £50
Support band - £35
Publicity - £80
Total = £425

This means that income for the whole event was £135. It was agreed that a post-mortem on the failure of the event would not be productive, but the FU should not have taken the band's word on their crowd-pulling capacity. In future, possibly we organise gigs that at least we can generate interest in within the FU subscribers at least. This will mean at least that enthusiasm amongst more members among the FU core group might be there.

2. Venue/Space: Karen to phone SRC and chase up Parnie Street premises. Maics to phone Biff re' Cranhill space in Saltmarket.

3. Bookshop: Mark considering joining EAS and run bookshop. Prefers a co-operative and for it to function 'collectively', but needs others to participate. Jim to ask Billy C.

4. Future Events: Thematic meetings to be co-ordinated. KH suggested one on theme of a revolutionary outlook with a focus on everyday life, and on education. MD suggested art workshops/meetings. Generally considered to be a good idea, thematic meetings might draw people back in again who may not necessarily be interested in attending talks which address diverse range of issues. Other possibilities: philosophy, the family... Details to be discussed at next meeting.

Other Biz: Mail-out to include a page on appeals and solidarity causes.

Next Meeting on 28/3/91 at MR's. 188 Albert Drive, P/Shields.

can Carol store stuff
w JP " "

MINUTES

1 26TH MARCH 91

1) CORRESPONDENCE

Mal. the need to have somebody take on replying monthly mgt. agrees: The need for formula-style H4 with information to have for future queries. J to get copy to Mark for Japanese reply. K to get Mark Detroit address. COMPUTER-LINK raised by Keith as communication method. PRINT OUT from J to K.

2) Matters Arising

80 cheque for Mgt. gig advertising

3) PROGRAMMES

A) Education - Grahams/Alison to have arranged something with Stacia. Weds. proposed, also that 2nd meeting travel booth. K. contact Stacia. M contact Alison to contact Stacia. MEET APRIL TRIP MAY

B) ART/FORUM E & Mal. coordinating for MAY to appeal to awth airts. Eddie Prevost as possible guest for 14TH April (Sunday) workshop; 25 okayed as expenses. Malcolm co-ordinates and to confirm. MAY 15TH Next Arts Forum. DIRECT CONTACTS NEEDED.

Next - COMMUNITY ARTS: WOMEN HOUSE / CRANHILL for JUNE

Malcolm/Evan contact on JUNE

(X) 24TH May ACHIN VANAIK finalise next week

APRIL week KURDISTI/IRAQ PLO phone Tom for contact for speaker PLO.

3 related meetings "Revolution of Everyday Life"

1st - 20th April or 27TH April Saturday @ SCOTTISH WESTERN OPEN DISCUSSION can Bill have someone on door etc to sign- Keith to confirm with me

badminton Keith and Alison co-ordinate

Spain - contact with Ian Down required

Could Alan Finlay make that contact

late SUMMER

Jim Lister 77 Albert Rd. PALESTINIAN preferably 4233606

PREMISES

FINANCES

NEWSLETTER: Keith has offered to do it.

FREE UNIVERSITY MINUTES OF MEETING 15/8/91

AGENDA : (1) CORRESPONDANCE (2) BOOKFAIR PLANS (3) FILM/VIDEO PLANS (4) REVIEWING
OTHER OBJECTIVES (5) FORUMS.

Present : Carol Rhodes, Malcolm Dickson, Kieth Millar, Mark Mehenly, Euan Sutherland,
Ramsey Cannan, Ian Brown.

(1) Various letters recieved, suitable ones added or checked on mailing list.

Steve Wilson: requesting shared mailing arrangements, MD to write back. Lois Aitken-
head: enthusiastic letter offering house in New Galloway to encourage F.U. type
activity in her area, CR to reply. MD to reply to T. Hubbard (Scottish Poetry Lib.).
ES to reply to 'Platform'. Other letters from people renewing interest. £8 recieved.

(2) Reports back; MM stated that the Volunteer centre was out, Mitchell Lib. available
the price probably too steep. Maryhill Arts Centre £100. all day/night, possible bar
and the hall capacity approx 500. Pierce Institute still a good option MD to fill
in application form and arrange meeting. Maryhill Com. Centre priced at £7.50 for
the assembly hall or with bar & lounge I3, capacity I50. Garnethill Multi-cultural
centre capacity I00 £I2 / hr. KM also phoned Woodside hall which is £250 inclusive.
From all this it was decided that the Pierce & Maryhill Arts were probably the best
bets. MD & ES would continue to make enquiries on both & compare the details. The
main priorities are the cost, floor area & other rooms available, the time available
preferably IO a.m. to I2 p.m. and the date which was set at I8 th JANUARY. There is the
possibility of extending the event to two days but this was not seen as a major
priority. It was noted that some form of activity could take place on the day after
perhaps informally or in other venues.

On the organisational side of the event, an initial list will be drawn up of people
that we want to take part in the events and/or hold a stall at the bookfair. Pre-
publicity will be drawn up which advertises the event as more than a bookfair &
clearly point out that the format will be the bookfair running continuously through
the day with talks, readings, workshops, videos etc alongside finishing in a social
event in the evening. MM pointed out that he could contact friends who work in
the Bay Tree cafe who could provide food for the day. MD could contact Gordon Muir
from Terra Nera to organise a disco. KM made the point that we have to find out
if Rangers are playing at home which would complicate the Underground system for
traveling to Govan. The charge for the hire of a stall was set at £IO with a IO%
cut from each stall's takings, the price for the evening event would be £I or £2.
We also need to find out the limit of stalls which can be fitted into the spaces.

A rough budget was drawn up:

INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Social.....£ I50	Food.....£ 50
Stalls.....£ 200	Hire of Hall.....£ 250
Bar£ 200	Transport.....£ I00
Food.....£ I00	Publicity & Postage.....£ 250
TOTAL.....£ 650	P.A. Hire.....£ 50
	Contingency.....£ 50
	TOTAL.....£ 750

The estimates on income have
been held down quite low, while
the expenditure has been estimated fairly high. There is also the possibility of